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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

March 5, 2026.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CAROL D. MILLER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2026, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

WORKING ACROSS THE AISLE

(Mr. HOYER of Maryland was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, this has been a historic week in many ways. We have significant disagreements in this House. I rose a few days ago to say to all the House Members on both sides of the aisle that we ought to move on behalf of the American people legislation and policies on which we agree and not allow them to be lost or unaddressed because of the fact that we have other matters on which we disagree.

That is a successful strategy for families, for human beings, for business, and for life, to not allow the things on which we disagree be an impediment to moving us forward on things we can agree on.

I rise this morning because we are going to have two items about which I am greatly concerned on the floor today. Actually, one of them will be on the floor and one will not. I am concerned about the one that will be, and I am concerned about the one that will not. I want to speak briefly about them.

We will be considering a bill on the floor today that will fund the Department of Homeland Security. There is within that bill two items on which the parties disagree. There are also within that bill literally a score, twoscore, perhaps threescore on which we agree. Those items will affect whether or not we pay people who are working for the Federal Government and for the American people.

A number of them are very important items. One is the TSA, the Transportation Security Agency, which we all see at airports. As far as I can tell, everybody in this House, all 435, believe they ought to be paid.

We will have on the sea surrounding our country and perhaps in other places, the Coast Guard patrolling for the sanctity of our borders, for the safety of our mariners, and for the safety both of commercial and non-commercial vessels.

There is also an agency within the Department of Homeland Security called the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which responds to jurisdictions and to people when disasters occur causing great damage to communities and to people. As far as I can tell, everybody is for funding that agency.

The Secret Service, particularly at a time of war but at all times, has a very difficult job. They are called essential

employees. They are working now, but they are not being paid. As far as I can tell, everybody in the House believes they ought to be paid.

Now we have a disagreement over the way that the ICE, otherwise known as the immigration service, is handling its work, its duties. Some of us believe that they are doing things that are outside the boundary of the Constitution, the laws of our country and our States, and the norms of police activity. It is a significant, important difference of opinion that ought to be argued, that ought to be resolved, and we resolve things through a vote on this floor.

The Border Patrol is also involved not at the border but in the interior of our country. That is not usual and it has resulted, in the opinion of some of us, in the taking of American lives inconsistent with the safety of American citizens and inconsistent with the norms of police work in America in our counties and in our cities and in our States.

Madam Speaker, in conclusion, I hope that we will vote on a motion to recommit which funds all of the Federal employees in question and represents honestly to the American people that the customs agency and ICE are already funded and were funded at the beginning of this year.

PASSING FARM BILL 2.0

(Mr. MANN of Kansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers are the backbone of this country. They wake up before the sun, work until long after it sets, and take on risk every single day to feed, fuel, and clothe the world. Too often in Washington we ask them to do that work without the certainty and stability that they deserve.

The last fully enacted farm bill was passed in 2018. That might not seem

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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like long ago in Washington, but in agriculture 6 years is a lifetime. Input costs and inflation surged under the mismanagement of the last administration. Markets are more volatile, and global competition has only intensified.

Our farmers do not need more uncertainty. They need predictability. They need policies that allow them to invest, plan, and efficiently keep their farms and ranches in their families.

That is why it was so critical that we passed what I call farm bill 1.0 last year. Through the Working Families Tax Cut Act, Republican majorities in Congress delivered the most significant investment in American agriculture in decades. We strengthened the farm safety net. We modernized crop insurance. We expanded access to commodity programs. We made historic investments in conservation, research, trade, and rural development. We delivered real tax relief to family farms and ranchers that operate on razor-thin margins.

Those policies lowered the cost of doing business, strengthened risk management tools, and gave producers more confidence to keep working in the face of uncertainty. From cattle ranchers to ag lenders, Americans in agriculture truly needed those policies. In short, it helped farmers weather economic pressure after 4 years of sky-high inflation that increased input costs by more than 36 percent under President Biden, but the job is not finished.

Farm bill 2.0 is about continuing what we started last summer. It is about taking that running start and delivering a fiscally responsible, 5-year farm bill that works for agricultural producers in the real world.

The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 does exactly that. This week, my colleagues on the House Agriculture Committee and I marked up the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, passing this legislation out of committee in a bipartisan fashion just a few hours ago.

This bill, which I consider farm bill 2.0, reflects the agriculture of today, not that of 2018. It strengthens commodity programs and disaster assistance so our Nation's producers are not left waiting on Congress every time drought, flood, wildfire, or disease strikes.

Farm bill 2.0 ensures dairy, livestock, and specialty crop producers have policies that match their risk. It protects crop insurance as the cornerstone of the farm safety net. It supports conservation programs that are locally led, voluntary, and practical.

The Farm, Food, and National Security Act expands access to credit and modernizes loan limits so producers can keep up with the capital-intensive nature of agriculture today. It strengthens rural development, broadband, water infrastructure, and rural hospitals, because agriculture does not exist in isolation. Strong

farms require strong rural communities.

Importantly, the bill is built on a bedrock of fiscally conservative policy. A farm bill should provide certainty without growing government for the sake of growing government. It should prioritize the men and women who have dedicated their lives to American agriculture instead of prioritizing paperwork. It should set our farmers up for success without getting in their way, and it should respect the taxpayer while recognizing that a secure food supply is key to national security. I am proud to say that our farm bill 2.0 lives up to those conservative standards.

This is not about politics. It is about doing our job. Farmers and ranchers plan in seasons and decades, not in continuing resolutions and short-term extensions. Every delay makes it harder for them to make decisions about planting, equipment purchases, and land leases.

Passing a 5-year bill gives producers what they need most: certainty. It gives them certainty to invest, certainty to innovate, and certainty to keep feeding a hungry world. Farm bill 1.0 laid that foundation. Farm bill 2.0 will continue that work.

As part of my farm bill impact series, I have spoken on this floor 34 times advocating for Congress to pass a farm bill, and this legislation is exactly what I have spent so long advocating for: the farm bill that builds on the agricultural wins we passed last year, and most importantly, the farm bill that our farmers and ranchers are depending on.

Madam Speaker, I call on the rest of my colleagues to recognize our bipartisan hard work and pass this legislation for the good of our farmers, our food supply, and our national security because when farmers succeed, America succeeds.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN J. HEIDINGER

(Mr. KENNEDY of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a truly remarkable Buffalonian, John J. Heidinger, who passed away at the age of 72 on January 1, 2026.

John's presence was woven into the fabric of Buffalo, and with his passing, our city has lost a pillar in our community. To know John was to know something essential about Buffalo itself: loyalty, humor, generosity, and an unwavering devotion to the people and places that shaped him.

John was born and raised in Buffalo's Old First Ward, a neighborhood defined by its character and Irish pride. John carried that with him every day of his life.

He was one of eight children raised by Jack and Elizabeth Heidinger in a small apartment near O'Connell Ave-

nue, where love, faith, and hard work were not just values. They were a way of life.

That foundation shaped the course of John's story.

John deeply believed in the power of organized labor, in the fairness, stability, and respect unions provide working families. That conviction led him to dedicate more than 40 years of his life as an usher and ticket taker, where he stood shoulder to shoulder with his fellow union members and ultimately went on to serve as president of Local 235, which would later become SEIU Local 200 United.

As president, John negotiated fair contracts, defended livelihoods, and helped ensure that generations of workers in western New York, including me and my family, could make a better life for themselves and their loved ones.

□ 1015

Madam Speaker, if we grew up in Buffalo, chances are we knew John in another way, too. In the early years of his career, John served as equipment manager for the Buffalo Sabres. He loved the team, the travel, the stories, and the joy of being part of something larger than himself.

John would even invite players, especially those far from home with nowhere to go, to his house for Thanksgiving dinner. That was John, making room at the table, always looking out for others, and always treating everyone like family.

In so many ways, John was present for Buffalo's most cherished memories. They include Sabres games, Bills games, Bisons games, Shea's performances, Kleinhans concerts, the race-track, the Aud, The Rockpile, Pilot Field, The Ralph, and the arena.

John was the familiar face at the door. He was the one who knew everyone's name, who greeted everyone with a smile, and who made each person feel welcome.

Above all else, John's favorite role was being a devoted father to Michael, Susanne, and Sara and a cherished papa to his grandson, Ethan. He was also a beloved friend and partner to Martha.

May we honor John's memory by living with the same generosity, loyalty, and pride in where we come from that he showed throughout his life.

To John's extensive family, friends, and loved ones, we hold them in our hearts. On behalf of a grateful city and on behalf of a grateful nation, may John J. Heidinger rest in peace.

STANDING WITH STUDENTS IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

(Mr. MCCORMICK of Georgia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MCCORMICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss legislation that is near and dear to me. It updates outdated Federal definitions and ensures

fairness for students attending universities that serve some of the most historically underserved communities across the country. Importantly, this bill has benefits with no cost.

My last tour as a marine was serving as the marine officer instructor at Morehouse, Spelman, Clark Atlanta, and Morris Brown as an adjunct professor. I then had the distinguished honor of attending and serving as student body president at Morehouse School of Medicine.

That experience shaped not only my medical career but also my understanding of leadership, service, and the responsibility we have to expand opportunity for the next generation.

Morehouse School of Medicine was founded to give opportunities to the underserved minority population and give them access to careers in healthcare and top-quality medical education. Its mission to serve the underserved is clear. Yet, for far too long, Federal policy has failed to keep pace with that mission.

This mission, which harkens back to the core principles for the foundation of the Republican Party itself, is a vital promise we should always strive to uphold.

Outdated definitions in statute have limited students at institutions like Morehouse to the resources and support they rightfully deserve. My bill is one small step to help correct that. It modernizes Federal language so that historically Black colleges and universities and other historically underserved institutions are treated fairly and equitably under the law in the way intended.

It ensures that students training to serve in rural communities, urban neighborhoods, and medically fragile populations are not disadvantaged by bureaucratic technicalities written decades ago.

As a graduate of Morehouse, I have seen the extraordinary talent and commitment of students who are determined to make a difference. They deserve policies that recognize their value and support their success.

Morehouse's legacy is incredible. I had the privilege of learning from former Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher, a towering figure in public health. His leadership set a standard of excellence and service that continues to guide my work today.

The broader Morehouse community has helped shape our Nation through leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose moral clarity transformed America; Jeh Johnson, who served as Secretary of Homeland Security; Edwin Moses, an Olympic gold medalist who exemplified discipline and determination; Samuel L. Jackson, whose artistic achievements are recognized worldwide; and Admiral Alvin Holsey, who had a long and distinguished military career.

These individuals reflect a tradition of excellence, resilience, and service. The students walking the halls today carry that same potential.

This legislation is about ensuring that Federal policy aligns with the legacy that we are trying to establish. This is about opportunity. It is about strengthening the pipeline of leaders, physicians, scientists, and public servants our country so urgently needs.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and stand with students at historically underserved institutions in order to make sure every institution that meets the criteria is included in the growing and vital HBCU network of universities that are working every day to serve America's communities.

HONORING LOUIS "LON" O. NORMANDIN, II

(Mr. LICCARDO of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LICCARDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Louis "Lon" O. Normandin, II, of Monte Sereno, California, a great and very good man. A beloved businessman, philanthropist, and community leader, Lon passed away on December 17, 2025, at the age of 91.

Born and bred in San Jose, Lon graduated from Bellarmine College Preparatory and earned a business degree from Santa Clara University. He then proudly served our country as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

He married his high school sweetheart, Peggy. Together, they shared 70 years of marriage and raised a large and loving family.

Following his military service, Lon Normandin carried on his family's storied business legacy, serving as president and chairman of the Normandin car dealership, a family business bearing the Normandin name since its founding in 1875 as a horse carriage manufacturer.

Under the leadership of Lon and his kids, the dealership continued through its fifth and sixth generations, a rare achievement in America that reflects the deep bond that the Normandin family had with the community.

Over more than 60 years in the auto industry, Lon earned national recognition. He led dealer efforts to rebuild Chrysler alongside CEO Lee Iacocca back in the 1980s. Lon became a finalist for the national TIME Dealer of the Year award. He helped lead his industry as the chairman of Chrysler's National Dealer Council and as president of Chrysler's California advertising association.

Lon was a renowned business leader in the area. He cofounded Heritage Bank in Silicon Valley, and he was sought after for his business advice.

Lon was far better known and far more beloved for what he meant to our community and how he lived out his faith. He supported many in need with a particular passion for the education of children from struggling families.

As a generous benefactor, he served on the boards of the Catholic Commu-

nity Foundation, Santa Clara University, Bellarmine College Preparatory, Presentation High School, and Notre Dame High School.

Lon led major fundraising efforts to build and expand Catholic elementary schools in the area. He helped establish St. Frances Cabrini in San Jose and Holy Spirit. He also supported Sacred Heart Nativity School.

Lon served the community and his faith as a longtime member of the Knights of Malta, and he was a familiar face at every 6 a.m. daily Mass.

His generosity extended well beyond the church. For many years, he volunteered weekly at Martha's Kitchen in San Jose, serving meals to neighbors in need. I would see him in there with an incredibly big smile and lots of friends joining in. He often brought his grandchildren and children along to embrace the value of service.

Above all his accomplishments, I remember Lon for his kindness, his unwavering instinct for helping others, and his deep devotion to his family. Lon treated everyone with respect, offered a ready smile or laugh, and sought to help anyone in need. Many sought help from him and Peggy.

His six kids—Mark, Caren, David, Lisa, Diane, and Paul—went on to become great community builders in their own right.

In my own youth, Lon provided me with a wonderful role model of Christian selflessness, leadership, and service. As I eventually learned, I wasn't alone in making Lon my role model. Many of my friends in the Normandin orbit felt the same way.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Lon Normandin and extending our very deepest condolences to his beloved wife, Peggy; their six children and spouses; 14 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. The family was the great joy and foundation of Lon's life.

Madam Speaker, we honor Lon Normandin's legacy of faith, family, and service and express gratitude for the example he set. May he rest in peace.

CELEBRATING AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize American Red Cross Month, which has been celebrated every March since 1943. The American Red Cross was founded by Clara Barton in 1881 with the noble mission of serving people in need.

The American Red Cross is one of the largest organizations in the country, with approximately 230 chapters in the United States and close to 300,000 volunteers.

American Red Cross Month was first recognized during World War II when Franklin D. Roosevelt urged individuals to assist with the Nation's growing humanitarian needs. What initially

started out as a humanitarian call to action has grown into a larger mission. Communities across the country now come together to help those in need.

The bond between the American Red Cross and the United States Government is defined by more than a century of service. Since the organization's formal chartering in the early 1900s, the American Red Cross has had a hand in providing aid to our military personnel and their families.

The organization was pivotal in assisting servicemembers and families during World War I and World War II. During both wars, the American Red Cross recruited thousands of registered nurses and prepared millions of aid packages for the United States military and our Allies.

Today, the American Red Cross still provides support for military members and their families. However, their reach has also extended to serve communities that have been impacted by natural disasters. This organization assists in recovery efforts by providing emergency assistance, food, shelter, and emotional support to those in need.

Many people know the American Red Cross because of their commitment to blood donations. On average, they collect nearly 4.5 million blood donations and provide almost 40 percent of our Nation's blood.

In addition to humanitarian relief and blood donations, the American Red Cross has been training and educating people for over a century. The organization provides training in first aid, CPR, water safety, lifeguarding, and other emergency response areas.

Today, communities across the United States are safer because of the large number of people who have become certified by the American Red Cross. With training, these people can identify an emergency and step in to provide care.

Madam Speaker, I thank all the American Red Cross volunteers who work tirelessly to serve others and care for those in need.

RECOGNIZING JERSEY SHORE, PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania, which marks its bicentennial celebration on March 15.

Jersey Shore was founded in 1826, although the borough's rich history dates to the 1700s, when families settled in the area after the Revolutionary War. Many families chose this location because of the availability of farmland.

Before the borough's adoption of the name "Jersey Shore," the settlement was first called Waynesburg, named after Anthony Wayne, a famous Revolutionary War general who served under General George Washington. However, Jersey Shore quickly became the namesake due to the high number of settlers from New Jersey and the borough's proximity to the Susquehanna River.

Established along the banks of the Susquehanna and near numerous State

parks, Jersey Shore, also known as the Gateway to the Pine Creek Valley, offers visitors the chance to hike, bike, fish, and kayak.

Jersey Shore is a true reflection of Main Street charm and American values. It is an area many people from the Commonwealth are proud to call home. We congratulate the Jersey Shore borough on this momentous milestone.

RECOGNIZING AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STAFF

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I want to take the opportunity to thank the members and staff of the House Committee on Agriculture.

Early this morning, we finished up 20 hours of markup and ultimately passed the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026. It is a strong bipartisan bill. It passed 2-1 out of committee. I appreciate all the members on the committee who contributed and helped to refine this bill.

This legislation really serves America's number one industry, agriculture, all of those farm families, ranch families, and communities of rural America. We look forward to bringing this legislation to the floor and, ultimately, to the President's desk.

□ 1030

RECOGNIZING GREENBURGH NATURE CENTER

(Mr. LATIMER of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, I rise to salute the outstanding work of the Greenburgh Nature Center, its professional staff, and its volunteer leadership for providing an environmental oasis for all to enjoy in the middle of a bustling suburb.

The nature center is a 33-acre preserve just steps away from busy Central Avenue that offers hiking trails, demonstration gardens, and a live animal museum with barnyard animals and other wildlife. It provides educational programs, youth camps for kids, and an annual environmental set of events that welcomes the whole community.

The professional team is led by Executive Director Alix Dunn. She had spent decades in environmental work with nonprofits in California before returning home to Westchester.

Alix is aided by Marybeth Cagney, Chloe Digianni, Rosa Van Zandt, Elisabeth Mulder, Greg Wechelaer, Andrew Michalski, and many others.

The board of directors provides volunteer and community-based support and direction, led by President Dolya Fleck and other leaders: Jackie Feffer, Melissa Jones, Naomi Haber, Jim Blann, and former Town Councilwoman Diana Juetner.

Madam Speaker, from the floor of the House of Representatives, we salute the team at the Greenburgh Nature Center for its constant advancement of this valued community asset.

RECOGNIZING SOUND SHORE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, the month of March, with St. Patrick's Day to be celebrated on March 17, is a time to honor those of us of Irish-American heritage.

Across the Nation, much less in Westchester and in the Bronx, there will be parades and festive dinners to salute the Irish experience and accomplishments here in America.

One such event is the 14th annual Sound Shore St. Patrick's Day Parade, scheduled for Sunday, March 22, in Mamaroneck. This loops together the Irish in communities from Larchmont to Rye and Port Chester to New Rochelle.

Tonight, there is the annual Hearts & Shamrocks dinner, which was, for many, the annual scholarship fundraising effort for deserving students. At the dinner, the parade's 2025 grand marshal, Matt McCauley, will turn over his sash to the parade's 2026 grand marshal, Joe Carvin.

Joe is a resident of Port Chester and a former resident of Rye Brook. He is an accomplished business executive, and yet he finds time to work with high school students, a voluntary action. He served as village trustee of Port Chester and as Rye town supervisor.

I regret being unable to join them tonight, but we salute Matt, Joe, and parade leaders Joe Mauro and Michael Murphy as they celebrate together.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, this grandson of Enniskillen in County Fermanagh sends our very best.

RECOGNIZING RONALD HICKS

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, I rise to salute the newly installed archbishop for the Archdiocese of New York, His Excellency, the Most Reverend Ronald Hicks.

Archbishop Hicks has assumed the spiritual leadership of the 2.8 million-member Catholic community that includes Westchester and the Bronx, succeeding the much-loved Timothy Cardinal Dolan, who served for 16 years.

Archbishop Hicks was most recently in charge of the diocese of Joliet, Illinois, and is well known by Pope Leo, also an Illinois native, who made this key assignment.

The New York Archdiocese has 300 parishes and also runs 153 schools with an aggregate enrollment of 49,000 students. It runs a seminary, cemeteries, and links with various Catholic charitable organizations.

A native of Illinois, Archbishop Hicks was ordained to the priesthood in 1994, served in local parishes as a seminary dean, and in an important assignment in Latin America before becoming a bishop.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, we welcome Archbishop Ronald Hicks to New York, and we wish him great success in his pastoral services and in his church leadership.

RECOGNIZING MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT MICHAEL OLLIS

(Ms. MALLIOTAKIS of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Madam Speaker, this past Monday, I joined President Trump at the White House as he posthumously awarded United States Army Staff Sergeant Michael Ollis of Staten Island, New York, the Medal of Honor, the Nation's highest military honor that can be bestowed.

Madam Speaker, I rise to share the bravery exhibited by my district's hometown hero.

On August 28, 2013, Staff Sergeant Ollis gave his life weeks before his 25th birthday. He gave his life to save an allied soldier during a Taliban raid on Forward Operating Base Ghazni in Afghanistan, after a truck carrying 3,000 pounds of explosives slammed into the base and terrorists advanced.

Without wearing any armor, Staff Sergeant Ollis fired back, then chose selflessness and placed himself between a suicide bomber and a fellow allied soldier.

He did not pause. He did not stop to calculate. He acted, knowing that the cost would be his life, but he chose to save the life of a NATO ally, Polish Second Lieutenant Karol Cierpica.

Michael's courage, selflessness, and sacrifice represent the very best of our Nation, earning him the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Silver Star, Distinguished Service Cross, as well as the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland, the highest Polish decoration for a foreigner.

On Staten Island, we are so proud of Michael. We have a ferry named after him. The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9587 is also named for Michael. The Michael Ollis Freedom Foundation supports veterans and students in his memory, continuing his legacy of service to others.

Yet, the Medal of Honor, a statement of national memory, tells the entire world and future generations of the courage, patriotism, sacrifice, and service exhibited by Michael Ollis. These are all values that the United States holds sacred.

His final act requires no embellishment or argument. It stands on its own, resolute and selfless, and is worthy of the highest military recognition that our country can bestow.

We are grateful to President Donald Trump for recognizing Staff Sergeant Ollis' extraordinary heroism.

Today, I add this tribute to the official CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. We congratulate his family, especially his parents, Bob and Linda, who accepted the honor, and the entire Staten Island community, who worked tirelessly to ensure that the ultimate sacrifice made by our hometown hero, Michael Ollis, received the recognition that it deserves.

Staff Sergeant Ollis may no longer be with us physically, but he lives on in our hearts and in our minds. His valor

and devotion to our Nation and his fellow soldiers will never be forgotten by our proud community and by our grateful Nation.

FOOD IS NATIONAL SECURITY

(Mr. COSTA of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, before I make my comments on a very important issue facing our country, let us all pause for a moment to recognize those six Americans who have lost their lives this week and their families, realizing that they have given their all. God bless them, and our thoughts and prayers are with their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about something that touches every family, as well, and every community, and that is hunger. Food, as I always say in the House Agriculture Committee, of which I am a member, is a national security issue. Food is a national security issue. Yet, we too often fail to treat it that way.

When families cannot access healthy, affordable food, our communities are weaker, our economy is weaker, and our Nation is weaker.

If we are forced to import essential foods rather than grow them here in America, that leaves our Nation more vulnerable in an increasingly unstable world that we live in today.

In our San Joaquin Valley, which I represent, one of the most productive agricultural regions in the country, farmers rise early in the morning to put food on America's dinner table. I know. I am a third-generation farmer and proud of it.

California produces over 400 commodities, including more than 60 percent of the Nation's fruits and vegetables. Over 80 percent of the citrus in the Nation is produced in California, along with 75 percent of the world's almonds and pistachios. Think about that: 75 percent in California.

Yet, even communities that grow so much of our food, like in my district, nearly 30 percent of the households rely on food assistance. It is an interesting dichotomy. We have incredible food production that puts food on every American's dinner table every night with the help of farmworkers, yet a majority of those households, 30 percent of them in my district, require food assistance. It is sad. They depend upon food support for their food.

Nationwide, 48 million people face food insecurity in our country, including 14 million children—14 million children—in the richest Nation in the world. This is unacceptable. At the same time, we know that grocery costs are up by as much as \$400 a month for so many of our families throughout the country.

Egg prices rose 53 percent over the year from January 2024 to January 2025.

In 2025, a gallon of whole milk averaged \$4.

Ground beef prices have risen 15 percent recently and are up 63 percent since 2020.

Americans who purchase their groceries every week know that the affordability of their food continues to become more challenging and more difficult.

Last year, the United States Department of Agriculture canceled—canceled—\$1 billion in funding that schools and local food banks use to purchase food directly from local farmers. It was a great program and had a lot of merit. Why they canceled it, I do not know.

Congress also enacted cuts totaling \$186 billion in food assistance that resulted in more than 3 million people losing their food support entirely. That is disgraceful.

Soon after, the United States Department of Agriculture terminated the annual Household Food Security report, the very report that told us that nearly 48 million Americans face food insecurity. What is that about? Without reliable data, we are left without a clear picture on who is struggling the most in our communities throughout our country.

This week, the House marked up the farm bill, an important effort that we are supposed to do every 4 years. We are now into 5.5 years. We tried to strengthen the nutrition programs through amendments and legislation, but the Republicans defeated our efforts, sadly.

We must stabilize farm income, or we will allow our producers to fall behind. Whether we invest in local food systems or just let them disappear, food is a national security issue. The farm bill affects grocery prices, crop insurance, school lunches, and rural economies.

Mr. Speaker, we must pass a bipartisan farm bill this year, and I am doing everything I can by working with my colleagues across the aisle and the Senate because food is a national security issue. That is the bottom line.

In the Central Valley that I represent, the San Joaquin Valley, families are spending over \$1,000 a month on groceries. The affordability question is real.

Farmers are navigating misguided tariffs policy, volatile markets, and disease outbreaks. In the richest country in the world, we should not accept a system where the hardest-working farmers see shrinking margins while families struggle to afford their groceries.

Let's support our farmers. Let's feed our families. Let's feed our children.

HONORING ROBERT "BOB" BACKON

(Mr. BERGMAN of Michigan was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of a truly remarkable man, my cousin, my friend, and a true pillar of his community, Robert "Bob" Backon.

Bob passed away on February 15 at the age of 83, leaving behind a legacy defined by service to his family, his students, and the community that he loved so deeply.

Life and tomorrow are never guaranteed. Little did any of us realize when I met with Steve, his son; Steve's wife, Leigh; and his granddaughter, Charleigh, about 10 days ago to think about the planning of Bob's memorial service, that today I would be extending condolences to Steve and Charleigh on the passing of Leigh, unexpectedly last Sunday. Again, life and tomorrow are never guaranteed. The only thing that is guaranteed is God's love and God's forgiveness.

□ 1045

Born in Highland Park, Michigan, and raised in Ironwood, Bob devoted his life to learning and to helping others succeed. After earning his bachelor's degree from Northland College and a master's in education from Northern Michigan University, he moved to Houghton, Michigan, in 1967. For the next 35 years, he taught U.S. history and government at Houghton High School, shaping the minds and the character of generations of young people.

To many of his students, he was simply "Mr. B." To the community, he was much more than a teacher. Bob was a mentor, a coach, and someone who believed deeply in investing in young people. He coached basketball and golf. Even after his coaching days ended, he stayed involved in athletics as a referee, bringing fairness, enthusiasm, and integrity to every game he worked. He was that kind of referee on the basketball court who celebrated the players of both teams on a shot well played and sometimes would chastise them a little bit for them being on the outside edges of the rules.

In fact, he told me a story. One time he said to his class in the beginning of November: You know November 15 here in northern Michigan is not a holiday. Just because it is the opening of deer season doesn't mean you get a day off of school. However, if a few days after November 15 there is some fresh venison on my desk, your grades won't suffer.

That was the kind of guy Bob was when it came to engaging his students and celebrating life as it was meant to be for these young high schoolers.

Bob believed that service with the community didn't stop at the classroom door. In 1990, he stepped into public service, first on the Houghton Planning Commission and later on the Houghton City Council. In 2008, he was elected mayor of Houghton, a position he held with pride and dedication for more than a decade.

Those who worked with him often described Bob as the kind of leader who brought people together. He led with kindness, wisdom, and an optimism that made others believe in the future of their town. He was the kind of per-

son who knew everyone, encouraged everyone, and celebrated every success, big or small.

To our family, Bob was something even more important. He was a steady presence, someone who cared deeply about the people around him. He faced life's hardships with strength and grace, carrying forward with the same generosity of spirit that defined him.

Bob loved his family, and one of his greatest joys was being a grandfather. He took pride in watching that next generation grow, just as he had taken pride in helping generations of students find their way. As his granddaughter, Charleigh, heads off to Miami of Ohio this fall, I know she is going to take the memories of her grandfather with her and celebrate that every day.

Mr. Speaker, communities across this country are built by people like Bob Backon, people who quietly dedicate their lives to others: teachers who inspire, coaches who mentor, local leaders who step forward, not for recognition, but because they care deeply about the place that they call home.

Bob embodied the very best of Michigan's Upper Peninsula: hard work, humility, kindness, and an unwavering commitment to community.

His impact will live on in the countless students he taught, the athletes he coached, the city he helped lead, and the many people whose lives were better simply because they knew him.

Whenever you hear the song "Sweet Caroline," you think about Bob humming that somewhere and leading the chorus. That was his song, and I am sure he is still singing it up in heaven.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FONG). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BERGMAN. I will always be proud to call him my cousin and friend. May his memory be a blessing and an inspiration to all who knew him.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EPSTEIN FILES

(Mr. FROST of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to talk about the investigation and horrific crimes of Jeffrey Epstein.

Last Friday, I attended President Clinton's deposition in New York. This deposition raised even more questions about President Trump's relationship with Jeffrey Epstein.

Let me explain why. First off, of course, President Clinton said that President Trump flew on the plane; but not just that, President Clinton also recounted a conversation he had with President Trump about Jeffrey Epstein on a golf course in New York in the early 2000s. He said that President Trump had told him that the reason him and Jeffrey Epstein had a falling out had to do with a real estate land dispute.

This directly contradicts information that President Trump has stated in the

past. He has claimed that their falling out was over spa workers at Mar-a-Lago.

We also know his own Secretary of Commerce, Howard Lutnick, is in the files, as well. Despite this, the President contends that he doesn't know anything about Jeffrey Epstein's crimes. The question is: If you don't know anything about the crimes, how do you know that Howard Lutnick is innocent, as the President has stated multiple times.

I also have unanswered questions about President Trump's Mar-a-Lago club. President Trump himself said that Jeffrey Epstein stole many of the women who worked at the spa in Mar-a-Lago.

I made a motion in the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to subpoena documents related to Jeffrey Epstein and Mar-a-Lago. No Republican on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform supported my motion.

Republicans on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform wanted to spend our time talking to Secretary Hillary Clinton. If we are calling spouses before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, why haven't we talked to Melania Trump about what she knows?

There are still many questions that need to be answered. I am proud that yesterday the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform issued a subpoena to Pam Bondi. We will hold her accountable for what is obviously a coverup in her withholding of many of the Epstein files.

DOJ VISITS AND REDDIT

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to chat about what I have been doing at the Department of Justice. Many Members have been going to the Department of Justice to view the Epstein files unredacted. Many of the files I have looked at were still redacted, even ones without victims' names in it. Some of the files I went to look for are no longer accessible and actually have been removed from the website. We know these files existed, but they have been scrubbed by the DOJ.

Americans are tired of the corruption. They are tired of a tiered justice system where depending on how big your bank account is and how connected you are will directly impact the outcome of your case. They want transparency.

I went online to Reddit and different websites to ask folks what I should look at and what they wanted transparency on as far as the Epstein files were concerned. Here today, I wanted to come to the floor to share some of the files that people online have asked me to look into.

The first one was this file that talked about a torture video. This right here is an email. The email belongs to Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, and that is who this was sent to.

The next one has to do with an email that says: "Did you know somewhere

in the hills outside Zorro, two foreign girls were buried on orders of Jeffrey and Madam G. Both died by strangulation during rough fetish sex." This is from a fake email right here, dfd42299@protonmail.com. Then at the bottom down here, they are arranging for a Bitcoin to be sent to a wallet address. I am actually going to read that address out loud: 3Cr9TpVeBegey4zGRPEdzMC94HzUUScBHN.

One of the other files people asked for some transparency on had to do with the Federal Bureau of Investigation CHS reporting document. This is still redacted. Even when I went into the DOJ and clicked a button to unredact it, it was still redacted. I was told they received it this way.

The next one has to do with a diary of drawings and collages, something that could definitely give us some more information that could be useful. This is also still redacted. There are many pages from the diary, all redacted. Of course, we need to keep the victims' names from being made public, but Congress has a right to investigate this important information.

One of the files that folks asked me to look into is about Donald Trump. Jeffrey Epstein forwarded an email to Ghislaine Maxwell. This email was from Jack Goldberg.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

REMEMBERING LOU HOLTZ

(Mr. YAKYM of Indiana was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we lost a giant. Growing up in South Bend, Coach Holtz was more than a football coach. He was a living legend.

When I was young, my family took me to a Notre Dame hockey game. We were walking up late, so there was nobody else around. Appearing out from the shadows, you could see the silhouette of Coach Holtz. My father asked if he had a moment to say hello and sign autographs for us. The coach could have just blown us off, but he didn't do that. He walked straight up to me, got down on one knee, stuck out his hand and said: "Hi, I am Coach Holtz. What is your name?"

That moment for me became a life-long lesson. It taught me that no matter who you are or where you go in life, you are never too important to say hello to someone that wants your time. That is exactly who Coach Holtz was—a national champion, a Hall of Fame coach, sure; but even more importantly, he was an extraordinary person. He is someone who brought out the best in people. He got more out of people than they ever believed possible. He inspired them to be the best that they could be, and he set a high standard of excellence that the people around him could only hope to achieve.

Sallyann and I lift up the Holtz family in our prayers.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Coach Holtz for the memories and his positive influ-

ence on the South Bend community and Notre Dame at large. Go Irish.

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AND BLACK HISTORY MONTH

(Mrs. SYKES of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, as we come off the observance of Black History Month, we are reminded of a story of courage, scholarship, and action that helped reshape how America understands its past.

Black History Month began with the work of Carter G. Woodson, who believed that contributions of African Americans must be visible, taught, and celebrated. In 1926, he created Negro History Week to highlight Black achievement and make space in our Nation's story for those who are often ignored.

It was at Kent State University, my alma mater, in 1969 and 1970, that students decided that 1 week was not enough. Black students and educators argued that history this rich and important deserved at least a full month.

Students from the Black United Students Organization proposed expanding the observance into what we now know as Black History Month.

In February 1970, Kent State became the first campus to celebrate a month-long event, 6 years before it became a national observance.

As someone who attended Kent State and studied in Oscar Ritchie Hall, I know firsthand the power of students demanding more truth, more justice, and more inclusion. Their voices shaped one of many national movements showing how change can start with those who are willing to speak up.

Although February has ended, the lessons of Black History Month do not end with it. History shapes our identity as a nation: good, bad, and everything in between. When we know the struggles and triumphs of those who came before us, we understand our collective journey toward justice. Black history is American history, and leaving any part out makes our story incomplete.

The close of Black History Month is not a conclusion. It is a continuation. It is a reminder to confront inequities in education, economic opportunity, healthcare, voting rights, and justice. True justice requires more than just recognition. It requires change. It requires action.

Even as the calendar turns, the call remains the same: lift every voice, celebrate achievements, confront injustice, and teach future generations a history and the need for diversity, equity, inclusion, and unity.

As we reflect on Black History Month here on the House floor, I ask all of my colleagues to recommit to these principles. When we expand the story of our history, we expand the promise of our future.

□ 1100

HONORING JUSTIN DAVIS

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Greenville, North Carolina, United States Army recruiters and those across the country are working hard to get the job done every single day.

My son Justin has arrived now at Fort Benning, Georgia, to become an infantryman. He went from carrying our Nation's flag to now answering the call to protect it. He was inspired as a child and from his 4 years in JROTC with the Ram Battalion at Greene Central High School in Snow Hill.

I recall a few months back, he called me and said that he wanted to talk to me about something, and I said: "Son, what is it?"

He said: "Dad, I want to join the Army." I said: "Well, son, you know I was in the Air Force, right?" He said: "Yes, I do, Dad." He said: "But I want to join the Army, and you are not changing my mind."

I said: "Well, son, what is it that you want to do?" He said: "I want to be an infantryman." I said: "Son, do you understand the risk?" He said: "Yes, Dad, I understand the risk." He went on to say something very moving and profound. He said: "Dad, I listed my brothers as my beneficiaries."

Later, he shared that, after praying, he went in and took the oath of office with his Bible in his pocket. By the way, I saw that Bible later. It was a camouflage Bible, but the words were the same.

As his father, I said to him: "Son, I love you. Serve us well." I found it in me to say: "Hooah."

Mr. Speaker, I pause to give a special shout-out in recognition to Major Morales and Sergeant Penhollow, his JROTC instructors; Sergeant Head, who was really instrumental in sharing with Justin about the Army; and Sergeant First Class Young, who reminded all of us that you don't just recruit soldiers, but you recruit families.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I must admit that I am a proud father. I am a proud father.

Decisions that I make serving on the House Armed Services Committee have become just so personal that I want everyone to also understand I can't be willing to ask any parent across this country to send their son or daughter without giving mine.

The last words that Justin shared with me before he was leaving, he said: "Dad, I am going to make you proud." I would say to my colleagues, O God, he has more than made me proud.

To all the recruits who are shipping out to serve our country, and especially right now during these challenging times—I was taking him to MEPS in Raleigh just over the weekend. During these challenging times, I

thank every single recruit with all of my heart. Thank you for your bravery. Thank you for your courage. Thank you for your willingness to serve our country. Thank you for your love for America.

To every recruit, I share the same words that I shared with my son: Be strong. Be of good courage. Be all that you can be.

HONORING LOU HOLTZ

(Mr. FALLON of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, a legend was called home. Lou Holtz passed away surrounded by his loving family, and I know coach, if he had to choose, wouldn't have it any other way.

Coach Lou Holtz will forever be a national treasure. He is a Hall of Fame coach, and he earned it.

He was born in modest means on January 6, 1937. His parents, Andrew and Anne Marie, raised him near a small mill town in West Virginia, right on the border in East Liverpool, Ohio.

Coach went on to play linebacker—I think he probably was 135 pounds soaking wet, but he was a linebacker—at Kent State. He used to joke when he would give some of his great speeches that he graduated third in his class. He was third from the bottom, not the top.

When he was 34 years old, he was having a tough time in life, so he wrote down 107, and then it became 108 life goals. There were some very lofty ones. One goal I believe was to appear on “The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson.” He wanted to be a head coach. He wanted to win a national championship and many other goals.

If he didn't achieve all of them, he achieved nearly all of them.

He became a head coach at William & Mary, then at North Carolina State University, and then 1 year with the New York Jets when Joe Namath was there. That didn't go too well.

His calling was back in college, and he went to the University of Arkansas. He had wild success there. Then, he went to the University of Minnesota. In his contract, he could leave for one school, and that school was the University of Notre Dame. We won a national championship there in 1988, and it was a very special time.

Coach Holtz coached many great Americans, such as Byron Spruell, Pat Eielers, Rod West, Tony Rice, Derrick Brown, Reggie Brooks, Ricky Watters, Jerome Bettis, Steve Buerlein, Andy Heck, Ron Meyer, James Dillard, and Antwon Lark. As one of 1,500 players, I got the privilege to—I used to joke. I didn't necessarily play for Coach Holtz; I practiced for him.

Coach used to say you should have four things in life: something to do, someone to love, someone to believe in, and something to hope for.

I want to share this with you all. Coach was in hospice. He passed away yesterday. You know when you are in

hospice, you know the end is coming. This is what I shared with Coach Holtz. I sent him a text last month. I am going to read it to you. “Coach, I am sitting in my office in the U.S. Capitol, and I know one thing for certain. I wouldn't be here right now had I not crossed your path. In short, you are a legend, and I love you.”

I had the honor of introducing him about a half dozen times over the last decade or so, and if you read Coach Holtz's bio, it is going to tell you that he has two sons, but that is wildly inaccurate. He has 1,502 sons. That is how players see him: as a coach, a mentor, a friend, and very much a second father.

Coach, you demanded the best from all of us and taught us to dig deep and reach our full potential. You taught us not to exist but to live, not to wallow but to thrive, and not to just dream but to act. You taught us to take hold of our own futures and fates.

So many of us did just that.

I oftentimes share with people that the coach came out and did a fundraiser for me in 2018 when I was running for the Texas Senate. I share that not to name drop or to impress people, but to share the person that he was. He refused payment. He flew from Florida to Texas to help a reserve player that he had coached 30 years prior. That is who he was. He was generous beyond measure and a great American patriot of our Republic. He is to be admired and emulated.

Coach, you inspired us to be the men the good Lord made us to be.

I was reading the other day that, at some point, for most of us, there will come a day when our name will be spoken for the last time for most of us. But not for you. Your name will live on for eternity because you are a legend. Do you know what, Coach? Damn it, you earned it.

Coach Lou Holtz, God bless you. Coach, thank you.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 10 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LOUDERMILK) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Teach us Your way, O Lord, that on this day we may walk in Your truth. You alone bear witness to what is real

and right. Help us to listen to Your voice amid the noise of all that is spoken around us. Focus the intentions of our hearts and the inclinations of our will on Your truth, that in all that we do and say in this place, we would revere You.

Enable us to align our thoughts, our words, and our actions that they would reflect both Your truth and Your love.

May we speak with integrity.

May we act with moral courage.

May we live faithfully.

Holy God, redeem and sustain us, that we may present ourselves to You as those whom You approve, without reason to be ashamed.

When the day is done, by Your grace and guidance, may we have spoken Your truth, proven faithful to Your word, and served as ambassadors of Your matchless love in these troubled times.

In Your merciful name, we pray.

Amen.

JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CORREA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECOGNIZING SOUTH CAROLINA EXPORT ACHIEVEMENTS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the leadership of Governor Henry McMaster, South Carolina Commerce Secretary Harry Lightsey, South Carolina Ports Authority President Micah Mallace, and Board Chairman Bill Stern.

The Ports Authority announced that, in 2025, our exports for the Palmetto State totaled \$38.5 billion, the highest value in 7 years. Charleston is led by Mayor William Cogswell.

Motor vehicles and parts, aircraft and parts, and machinery and parts

were the most exported commodities. South Carolina has exported to 198 countries and territories, creating jobs.

In 2025, we were the leading exporter of BMW, Volvo, and Mercedes vehicles, as well as the national leader in the export of Michelin, Bridgestone, Continental, Giti, and Trelleborg tires.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstating peace through strength through revealing war Putin criminal lies, insulting Trump and mocking Trump, as Putin supports Iran today after the attacks on civilians in Azerbaijan and Syria.

I am confident that President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan and President Ahmed al-Sharaa of Syria will respond, protecting Syrians.

South Carolina also recognizes the passage of our favorite son, Jesse Jackson.

HONORING HOLLY HAGLER

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Holly Hagler and her dedication to service through nonprofit work.

Ms. Hagler has spent much of her career serving our community's fastest-growing demographic, adults 65 and older. Since becoming the Orange County chapter president and CEO of Meals on Wheels in 2010, Ms. Hagler has led the delivery of meals to more than 15,000 older adults per year.

Ms. Hagler has also served on the leadership council of the Orange County strategic plan for the aging and as board chair of the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services. She has been recognized many times by the L.A. Times in both chambers of the California State Legislature.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Holly on a career filled with many accomplishments. We will miss her.

REMEMBERING BILLY KEYES

(Ms. ELFRETH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ELFRETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Billy Keyes, a friend and a beloved Annapolitan, who we lost last week at the age of 104.

Mr. Keyes was a World War II veteran, police officer, public school teacher, artist, proud Alpha man, husband, father, and devoted community member. Everyone fortunate enough to know Mr. Keyes knew him for his wisdom, his compassion, and his unbridled wit.

He served in the 761st Tank Battalion, the first all-African-American unit to enter combat during WWII. He then shared his experience with the next generation as a teacher for over three decades in the Anne Arundel County Public Schools. He retired only 5 years ago at the young age of 99.

Mr. Keyes was an example of how to live well and how to live generously. When I visited him to mark his 100th birthday, he requested that I bring vanilla ice cream and Maryland-distilled whiskey.

He made sure that I let people know that, while he was a lifelong registered Republican, he appreciated sharing his wisdom with service-minded Democrats.

He accomplished more during his lifetime than many of us can dare to imagine, not taking a single moment for granted. He touched so many lives through his dedicated service to our community.

Mr. Speaker, he leaves behind a historic legacy here. I will forever be inspired and grateful for having known him.

HONORING RYANN ELIZABETH KINNEY

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the most effective staffers and one of the most trusted partners with whom I have ever had the pleasure of working.

Many of my colleagues know her well by her presence at my side on this floor, from the townhalls and the briefings she has given regarding Community Project Funding, or her skill in helping hundreds of House Democratic offices submit their priorities to the Appropriation Committee each year.

In each aspect of her role as director of Member services, Ryann Elizabeth Kinney has brought unmatched tenacity, patience, attention to detail, and good humor with her. These are all essential qualities during long debates and longer markups.

She is more than staff to me. She is family. I worked with her father, and I watched her grow up and begin her career as an intern in my office. She jumped at the opportunity to become my temporary scheduler.

We all know that scheduling can be a no-win job in the office. Ryann handled it with aplomb, taking on a legislative portfolio even as she became my permanent scheduler.

When I took on the role of Appropriations chair, I knew there was no one I would rather have in my corner on the committee. As always, Ryann was up for the challenge. Since then, we have known victories. We have known defeats. We have had highs and lows. Like me, Ryann never tires of the fight.

I am certain that Ryann will enjoy great success in her future endeavors, wherever that may lead. While I will miss her counsel and her company in this body, I am so proud and excited to see her pursue new opportunities and adventures.

Mr. Speaker, Ryann will always be part of my family. I thank her for everything, and the staff is all gathered in the gallery to thank her, as well.

□ 1210

HIGHLIGHTING EPSTEIN FILES

(Mr. FROST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, one of the files is about President Trump and Mar-a-Lago.

What it reads, starting here, is:

Jeffrey Epstein forwarded Ghislaine Maxwell email from Jack Goldberger.

What it says, starting here, is:

JE ever expelled from Mar-a-Lago? No. He was not a member. May have been a guest. Never asked to leave.

Mark Epstein said Trump on JE plane is true. I've been on a lot of planes, may have been on his plane. No young girls on plane.

What do you know about allegations against JE? Only what I read in the paper.

Trump ever been at JE house? I may have been there with my wife. Any young girls there? No. May have been children of guests, but that's it.

Trump specifically asked Garten to advise us of the interview. Brad had also previously talked to a manager at Mar-a-Lago. Bernd Lembecke confirmed JE never asked to leave Mar-a-Lago.

That is this document, the final one that we will report on today.

The Department of Justice is still sitting on about 3 million files. They continue to pull things back and hide them every day. The government is lying to us, and we will continue to fight until we have full transparency.

DTE ENERGY IS OUT OF CONTROL

(Ms. TLAIB asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, DTE Energy is out of control.

They are requesting another outrageous rate hike, just days after State regulators approved another \$242 million increase, an increase of 4.6 percent per customer. These are our residents getting their utility costs increased.

Our families can't afford higher rates with more power outages that wipe out groceries, spoil our medicines in our refrigerator, and leave our neighbors without critical medical services, all because DTE in Michigan would rather spend money on campaign contributions than invest in reliability.

DTE doesn't even care about reliability because they care about record profits and pay for shareholders and executives.

Mr. Speaker, the company made \$1.5 billion in profits last year. This is unchecked corporate greed. DTE already charges some of the highest rates in the Nation but provides unreliable service and performs hundreds of thousands of utility shutoffs per year.

Mr. Speaker, guess who subsidizes those shutoffs. It is the LIHEAP program, the taxpayers.

Enough is enough. DTE Energy needs to be checked and held accountable.

RECOGNIZING ANDRES ACEBO

(Mrs. McIVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the leadership of President Acebo, the 13th president of New Jersey City University in Jersey City.

A proud Hudson County native and the first-generation son of Cuban immigrants, President Acebo grew up in Union City and now leads one of our State's most vital Hispanic-serving institutions. He is now the youngest president ever to head a public university in our State.

When he stepped into leadership, NJCU faced a \$22 million deficit and a physical emergency. In less than 2 years, he stabilized the university's finances and restored confidence in an institution that serves working families across New Jersey-10.

Yet, his leadership goes beyond balance sheets. Under President Acebo, NJCU ranks number one in New Jersey for social mobility, expanding transfer access, and increased enrollment. It has reaffirmed its mission to make higher education affordable and accessible.

President Acebo's story reflects the very students who NJCU serves: resilient and rooted in community.

FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1095, I call up the bill (H.R. 7744) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1095, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

HR 7744

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2026".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. References.
- Sec. 4. Explanatory statement.
- Sec. 5. Statement of appropriations.

DIVISION A—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS
DIVISION B—FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to "this Act" contained in division A of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

SEC. 4. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.

The explanatory statement regarding H.R. 7147 of the 119th Congress, printed in the

House of Representatives section of the Congressional Record on January 22, 2026, and submitted by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, shall have the same effect with respect to the allocation of funds and implementation of this Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

SEC. 5. STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The following sums in this Act are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026.

DIVISION A—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS
TITLE I

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT, INTELLIGENCE, SITUATIONAL AWARENESS, AND OVERSIGHT

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY AND EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary and for executive management for operations and support, \$316,295,000, which shall be for the purposes and in the amounts specified in the "Final Bill" column for Office of the Secretary and Executive Management, Operations and Support, in the "Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2026" table in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), of which \$14,050,000 of amounts made available for Management and Oversight, Office of Health Security and \$8,000,000 of amounts made available for Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That \$5,000,000 shall be withheld from obligation until the Secretary submits to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate responses to all questions for the record for each hearing on the fiscal year 2027 budget submission for the Department of Homeland Security held by such Committees prior to July 1: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$15,000 shall be for official reception and representation expenses.

PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVEMENTS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary and for executive management for procurement, construction, and improvements, \$8,911,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028.

MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE
OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For necessary expenses of the Management Directorate for operations and support, including vehicle fleet modernization, \$1,690,380,000, which shall be for the purposes and in the amounts specified in the "Final Bill" column for Management Directorate, Operations and Support, in the "Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2026" table in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided*, That not to exceed \$2,000 shall be for official reception and representation expenses.

PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVEMENTS

For necessary expenses of the Management Directorate for procurement, construction, and improvements, \$58,106,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028.

FEDERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE

The revenues and collections of security fees credited to this account shall be available until expended for necessary expenses

related to the protection of federally owned and leased buildings and for the operations of the Federal Protective Service.

INTELLIGENCE, ANALYSIS, AND SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For necessary expenses of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis and the Office of Homeland Security Situational Awareness for operations and support, \$340,819,000, of which \$121,274,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$3,825 shall be for official reception and representation expenses and not to exceed \$2,000,000 is available for facility needs associated with secure space at fusion centers, including improvements to buildings.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General for operations and support, \$257,599,000, of which \$20,000,000 shall be for additional inspections and oversight of detention facilities and shall remain available until September 30, 2027, and of which \$12,814,000 shall be for oversight of the execution of funds provided in Public Law 119-21: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$300,000 may be used for certain confidential operational expenses, including the payment of informants, to be expended at the direction of the Inspector General.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. (a) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report not later than October 15, 2026, to the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security listing all grants and contracts awarded by any means other than full and open competition during fiscal years 2025 or 2026.

(b) The Inspector General shall review the report required by subsection (a) to assess departmental compliance with applicable laws and regulations and report the results of that review to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than February 15, 2027.

SEC. 102. (a) Not later than 30 days after the last day of each month, the Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a monthly budget and staffing report that includes total obligations of the Department for that month and for the fiscal year at the appropriation and program, project, and activity levels, by the source year of the appropriation.

(b) The initial staffing report submitted pursuant to subsection (a) shall be the baseline for which the Department of Homeland Security may increase or decrease staffing levels for any program, project, or activity pursuant to section 503(a)(4) of this Act.

SEC. 103. (a) The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate of any proposed transfers of funds available under section 9705(g)(4)(B) of title 31, United States Code, from the Department of the Treasury Forfeiture Fund to any agency within the Department of Homeland Security.

(b) None of the funds identified for such a transfer may be obligated until the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate are notified of the proposed transfer.

SEC. 104. All official costs associated with the use of Government aircraft by Department of Homeland Security personnel to support official travel of the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary shall be paid from amounts made available for the Office of the Secretary.

SEC. 105. (a) The Under Secretary for Management shall brief the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 45 days after the end of each fiscal quarter on all Level 1 and Level 2 acquisition programs on the Master Acquisition Oversight List between Acquisition Decision Event and Full Operational Capability, including programs that have been removed from such list during the preceding quarter.

(b) For each such program, the briefing described in subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a description of the purpose of the program, including the capabilities being acquired and the component(s) sponsoring the acquisition;

(2) the total number of units, as appropriate, to be acquired annually until procurement is complete under the current acquisition program baseline;

(3) the Acquisition Review Board status, including—

(A) the current acquisition phase by increment, as applicable;

(B) the date of the most recent review; and

(C) whether the program has been paused or is in breach status;

(4) a comparison between the initial Department-approved acquisition program baseline cost, schedule, and performance thresholds and objectives and the program's current such thresholds and objectives, if applicable;

(5) the lifecycle cost estimate, adjusted for comparison to the Future Years Homeland Security Program, including—

(A) the confidence level for the estimate;

(B) the fiscal years included in the estimate;

(C) a breakout of the estimate for the prior five years, the current year, and the budget year;

(D) a breakout of the estimate by appropriation account or other funding source; and

(E) a description of and rationale for any changes to the estimate as compared to the previously approved baseline, as applicable, and during the prior fiscal year;

(6) a summary of the findings of any independent verification and validation of the items to be acquired or an explanation for why no such verification and validation has been performed;

(7) a table displaying the obligation of all program funds by prior fiscal year, the estimated obligation of funds for the current fiscal year, and an estimate for the planned carryover of funds into the subsequent fiscal year;

(8) a listing of prime contractors and major subcontractors; and

(9) narrative descriptions of risks to cost, schedule, or performance that could result in a program breach if not successfully mitigated.

(c) The Under Secretary for Management shall submit each approved Acquisition Decision Memorandum for programs described in this section to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than five business days after the date of approval of such memorandum by the Under Secretary for Management or the designee of the Under Secretary for Management.

SEC. 106. (a) None of the funds made available to the Department of Homeland Security in this Act or prior appropriations Acts may be obligated for any new pilot or demonstration unless the component or office carrying out such pilot or demonstration has documented the information described in subsection (c).

(b) Prior to the obligation of any such funds made available for "Operations and Support" for a new pilot or demonstration,

the Under Secretary for Management shall provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the information described in subsection (c).

(c) The information required under subsections (a) and (b) for a pilot or demonstration shall include the following—

(1) documented objectives that are well-defined and measurable;

(2) an assessment methodology that details—

(A) the type and source of assessment data;

(B) the methods for, and frequency of, collecting such data; and

(C) how such data will be analyzed; and

(3) an implementation plan, including milestones, cost estimates, and implementation schedules, including a projected end date.

(d) Not later than 90 days after the date of completion of a pilot or demonstration described in subsection (c), the Under Secretary for Management shall provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailing lessons learned, actual costs, any planned expansion or continuation of the pilot or demonstration, and any planned transition of such pilot or demonstration into an enduring program or operation.

(e) For the purposes of this section, a pilot or demonstration program is a study, demonstration, experimental program, or trial that—

(1) is a small-scale, short-term experiment conducted in order to evaluate feasibility, duration, costs, or adverse events, and improve upon the design of an effort prior to implementation of a larger scale effort; and

(2) uses more than 10 full-time equivalents or obligates, or proposes to obligate, \$5,000,000 or more, but does not include congressionally directed programs or enhancements and does not include programs that were in operation as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) For the purposes of this section, a pilot or demonstration does not include any testing, evaluation, or initial deployment phase executed under a procurement contract for the acquisition of information technology services or systems, or any pilot or demonstration carried out by a non-Federal recipient under any financial assistance agreement funded by the Department.

SEC. 107. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used by the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security to conduct a covered activity (as defined by section 6303 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (division F of Public Law 118-159)).

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting or superseding the authority of any official within the Department of Homeland Security to conduct legal, privacy, civil rights, or civil liberties oversight of the intelligence activities of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit, or to limit the authority of, personnel of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security from sharing intelligence information with, or receiving information from—

(1) foreign, State, local, tribal, or territorial governments (or any agency or subdivision thereof);

(2) the private sector; or

(3) other elements of the Federal Government, including the components of the Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 108. (a) The Inspector General shall report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on a quarterly basis on oversight of the fund-

ing provided to the Department in Public Law 119-21.

(b) The quarterly report required in subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a review of the spend plans for every program, project, or activity funded by the Department under Public Law 119-21, including the current status of obligated funds compared to spend plan projections; and

(2) a summary of the audits being conducted on the Department's contracting, procurement, and acquisition activities resulting from Public Law 119-21.

(c) Beginning one year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Inspector General shall submit a comprehensive report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the audits, inspections, and evaluations conducted on funds provided and activities undertaken in Public Law 119-21 and shall also provide recommendations in such report on ways to improve effectiveness and efficiency and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of such programs and funds.

SEC. 109. (a) For an additional amount for "Office of the Secretary and Executive Management—Operations and Support—Office of the Secretary", \$20,000,000, for the procurement, deployment, and operations of body-worn cameras for agents and officers performing enforcement activities under 8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.

(b) Within 30 days of the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a spend plan for the execution of funding provided in subsection (a).

TITLE II

SECURITY, ENFORCEMENT, AND INVESTIGATIONS

U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of U.S. Customs and Border Protection for operations and support, including the transportation of unaccompanied alien minors; the provision of air and marine support to Federal, State, local, and international agencies in the enforcement or administration of laws enforced by the Department of Homeland Security; at the discretion of the Secretary of Homeland Security, the provision of such support to Federal, State, and local agencies in other law enforcement and emergency humanitarian efforts; the purchase and lease of up to 7,500 (6,500 for replacement only) police-type vehicles; the purchase, maintenance, or operation of marine vessels, aircraft, and unmanned aerial systems; and contracting with individuals for personal services abroad; \$17,727,974,000; of which \$3,274,000 shall be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for administrative expenses related to the collection of the Harbor Maintenance Fee pursuant to section 9505(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 9505(c)(3)) and notwithstanding section 1511(e)(1) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 551(e)(1)); of which \$550,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027; and of which such sums as become available in the Customs User Fee Account, except sums subject to section 13031(f)(3) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(f)(3)), shall be derived from that account: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$34,425 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$150,000 shall be available for payment for rental space in connection with preclearance operations: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$2,000,000 shall be for awards of compensation to informants, to be accounted for solely under

the certificate of the Secretary of Homeland Security: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$2,500,000 may be transferred to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the maintenance and repair of roads on Native American reservations used by the U.S. Border Patrol.

PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVEMENTS

For necessary expenses of U.S. Customs and Border Protection for procurement, construction, and improvements, including procurement of marine vessels, aircraft, and unmanned aerial systems, \$222,886,000, which shall be for the purposes and in the amounts specified in the "Final Bill" column for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Procurement, Construction, and Improvements, in the "Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2026" table in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), of which—

(1) amounts made available for Border Security Assets and Infrastructure, Trade and Travel Assets and Infrastructure, Integrated Operations Assets and Infrastructure, Mission Support Assets and Infrastructure, and Radiological Detection Systems shall remain available until September 30, 2028; and

(2) amounts made available for Construction and Facility Improvements shall remain available until September 30, 2030.

U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For necessary expenses of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for operations and support, including the purchase and lease of up to 3,790 (2,350 for replacement only) police-type vehicles; overseas vetted units; and maintenance, minor construction, and minor leasehold improvements at owned and leased facilities; \$10,036,362,000, which shall be for the purposes and in the amounts specified in the "Final Bill" column for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Operations and Support, in the "Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2026" table in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), of which—

(1) of the amounts made available for Homeland Security Investigations—

(A) not less than \$6,000,000 shall remain available until expended for efforts to enforce laws against forced child labor;

(B) \$46,696,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027;

(C) not less than \$3,000,000 is for paid apprenticeships for participants in the Human Exploitation Rescue Operative Child-Rescue Corps;

(D) not less than \$15,000,000 shall be available for investigation of intellectual property rights violations, including operation of the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center;

(E) \$15,000,000 shall be available until expended for conducting special operations under section 3131 of the Customs Enforcement Act of 1986 (19 U.S.C. 2801); and

(F) not to exceed \$4,000,000 shall be for awards of compensation to informants, to be accounted for solely under the certificate of the Secretary of Homeland Security;

(2) of the amounts made available for Enforcement and Removal Operations, not to exceed \$11,216,000 shall be available to fund or reimburse other Federal agencies for the costs associated with the care, maintenance, and repatriation of smuggled aliens unlawfully present in the United States; and

(3) of the amounts made available under this heading, \$11,475 shall be for official reception and representation expenses.

PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVEMENTS

For necessary expenses of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for procurement, construction, and improvements, \$5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028.

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For necessary expenses of the Transportation Security Administration for operations and support, \$10,635,434,000, of which \$300,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$7,650 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That security service fees authorized under section 44940 of title 49, United States Code, shall be credited to this appropriation as offsetting collections and shall be available only for aviation security: *Provided further*, That the sum appropriated under this heading from the general fund shall be reduced on a dollar-for-dollar basis as such offsetting collections are received during fiscal year 2026 so as to result in a final fiscal year appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$7,605,434,000.

PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVEMENTS

For necessary expenses of the Transportation Security Administration for procurement, construction, and improvements, \$330,230,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses of the Transportation Security Administration for research and development, \$24,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

COAST GUARD

OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For necessary expenses of the Coast Guard for operations and support including the Coast Guard Reserve; purchase or lease of not to exceed 30 passenger motor vehicles, which shall be for replacement only; purchase or lease of small boats for contingent and emergent requirements (at a unit cost of not more than \$700,000) and repairs and service-life replacements, not to exceed a total of \$31,000,000; purchase, lease, or improvements of boats necessary for overseas deployments and activities; payments pursuant to section 156 of Public Law 97-377 (42 U.S.C. 402 note; 96 Stat. 1920); and recreation and welfare; \$11,272,401,000, of which \$530,000,000 shall be for defense-related activities; of which \$24,500,000 shall be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to carry out the purposes of section 1012(a)(5) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2712(a)(5)); of which \$20,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028; of which \$25,335,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030, for environmental compliance and restoration; and of which \$400,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027, which shall only be available for depot level maintenance: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$23,000 shall be for official reception and representation expenses.

PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVEMENTS

For necessary expenses of the Coast Guard for procurement, construction, and improvements, including aids to navigation, shore facilities (including facilities at Department of Defense installations used by the Coast Guard), and vessels and aircraft, including equipment related thereto, \$991,872,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030; of which \$20,000,000 shall be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to carry out

the purposes of section 1012(a)(5) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2712(a)(5)).

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses of the Coast Guard for research and development; and for maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment; \$6,763,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028, of which \$500,000 shall be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to carry out the purposes of section 1012(a)(5) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2712(a)(5)): *Provided*, That there may be credited to and used for the purposes of this appropriation funds received from State and local governments, other public authorities, private sources, and foreign countries for expenses incurred for research, development, testing, and evaluation.

RETIRED PAY

For retired pay, including the payment of obligations otherwise chargeable to lapsed appropriations for this purpose, payments under the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection and Survivor Benefits Plans, payment for career status bonuses, payment of continuation pay under section 356 of title 37, United States Code, concurrent receipts, combat-related special compensation, and payments for medical care of retired personnel and their dependents under chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, \$1,249,000,000, to remain available until expended.

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For necessary expenses of the United States Secret Service for operations and support, including purchase of not to exceed 652 vehicles for police-type use; hire of passenger motor vehicles; purchase of motorcycles made in the United States; hire of aircraft; rental of buildings in the District of Columbia; fencing, lighting, guard booths, and other facilities on private or other property not in Government ownership or control, as may be necessary to perform protective functions; conduct of and participation in firearms matches; presentation of awards; conduct of behavioral research in support of protective intelligence and operations; payment in advance for commercial accommodations as may be necessary to perform protective functions; and payment, without regard to section 5702 of title 5, United States Code, of subsistence expenses of employees who are on protective missions, whether at or away from their duty stations; \$3,128,304,000, of which \$96,299,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027, and of which \$20,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028; and of which \$6,000,000 shall be for a grant for activities related to investigations of missing and exploited children; and of which up to \$33,000,000 may be for calendar year 2025 premium pay in excess of the annual equivalent of the limitation on the rate of pay contained in section 5547(a) of title 5, United States Code, pursuant to section 2 of the Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act of 2016 (5 U.S.C. 5547 note), as last amended by Public Law 118-38: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$19,125 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$100,000 shall be to provide technical assistance and equipment to foreign law enforcement organizations in criminal investigations within the jurisdiction of the United States Secret Service.

PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVEMENTS

For necessary expenses of the United States Secret Service for procurement, construction, and improvements, \$118,517,000, of which \$96,167,000 shall remain available until

September 30, 2028, and of which \$22,350,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses of the United States Secret Service for research and development, \$3,250,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 201. Section 201 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2018 (division F of Public Law 115-141), related to overtime compensation limitations, shall apply with respect to funds made available in this Act in the same manner as such section applied to funds made available in that Act, except that “fiscal year 2026” shall be substituted for “fiscal year 2018”.

SEC. 202. Funding made available under the headings “U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Operations and Support” and “U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Procurement, Construction, and Improvements” shall be available for customs expenses when necessary to maintain operations and prevent adverse personnel actions in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, in addition to funding provided by sections 740 and 1406i of title 48, United States Code.

SEC. 203. As authorized by section 601(b) of the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act (Public Law 112-42), fees collected from passengers arriving from Canada, Mexico, or an adjacent island pursuant to section 1303(a)(5) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(a)(5)) shall be available until expended.

SEC. 204. (a) For an additional amount for “U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Operations and Support”, \$31,000,000, to remain available until expended, to be reduced by amounts collected and credited to this appropriation in fiscal year 2026 from amounts authorized to be collected by section 286(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(i)), section 10412 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8311), and section 817 of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-125), or other such authorizing language.

(b) To the extent that amounts realized from such collections exceed \$31,000,000, those amounts in excess of \$31,000,000 shall be credited to this appropriation, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 205. None of the funds made available in this Act for U.S. Customs and Border Protection may be used to prevent an individual not in the business of importing a prescription drug (within the meaning of section 801(g) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act) from importing a prescription drug from Canada that complies with the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act: *Provided*, That this section shall apply only to individuals transporting on their person a personal-use quantity of the prescription drug, not to exceed a 90-day supply: *Provided further*, That the prescription drug may not be—

(1) a controlled substance, as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802); or

(2) a biological product, as defined in section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262).

SEC. 206. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds provided in this or any other Act shall be used to approve a waiver of the navigation and vessel-inspection laws pursuant to section 501(b) of title 46, United States Code, for the transportation of crude oil distributed from and to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve until the Secretary of Homeland Security, after con-

sultation with the Secretaries of the Departments of Energy and Transportation and representatives from the United States flag maritime industry, takes adequate measures to ensure the use of United States flag vessels.

(b) The Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate within two business days of any request for waivers of navigation and vessel-inspection laws pursuant to section 501(b) of title 46, United States Code, with respect to such transportation, and the disposition of such requests.

SEC. 207. (a) Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall not—

(1) establish, collect, or otherwise impose any new border crossing fee on individuals crossing the Southern border or the Northern border at a land port of entry; or

(2) conduct any study relating to the imposition of a border crossing fee.

(b) In this section, the term “border crossing fee” means a fee that every pedestrian, cyclist, and driver and passenger of a private motor vehicle is required to pay for the privilege of crossing the Southern border or the Northern border at a land port of entry.

SEC. 208. (a) Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall submit an expenditure plan for any amounts made available for “U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Procurement, Construction, and Improvements” in this Act and prior Acts to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

(b) No such amounts provided in this Act may be obligated prior to the submission of such plan.

SEC. 209. (a) Funds made available in this Act may be used to alter operations within the National Targeting Center of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(b) None of the funds provided by this Act, provided by previous appropriations Acts that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2026, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees available to the components funded by this Act, may be used to reduce anticipated or planned vetting operations at existing locations unless specifically authorized by a statute enacted after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 210. None of the funds made available for Border Security Assets and Infrastructure under the heading “U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Procurement, Construction, and Improvements” in this Act or prior appropriations Acts shall be used for the procurement or deployment of surveillance systems that are not autonomous, as such term is defined in section 90004 of Public Law 119-21.

SEC. 211. The Secretary shall ensure that the November 30, 2021, policy statement from U.S. Customs and Border Protection titled “Policy Statement and Required Actions Regarding Pregnant, Postpartum, Nursing Individuals, and Infants in Custody,” or substantively similar standards of treatment developed in consultation with maternal and pediatric health providers and experts, are in effect and are fully implemented to safeguard the health, safety, and rights of pregnant women in U.S. Customs and Border Protection custody.

SEC. 212. None of the funds provided under the heading “U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement—Operations and Support” may

be used to continue a delegation of law enforcement authority authorized under section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1357(g)) if the Department of Homeland Security Inspector General determines that the terms of the agreement governing the delegation of authority have been materially violated.

SEC. 213. (a) None of the funds provided under the heading “U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement—Operations and Support” may be used to continue any contract for the provision of detention services if the two most recent overall performance evaluations received by the contracted facility are less than “adequate” or the equivalent median score in any subsequent performance evaluation system.

(b) The performance evaluations referenced in subsection (a) shall be conducted by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Professional Responsibility.

SEC. 214. Without regard to the limitation as to time and condition of section 503(d) of this Act, the Secretary may reprogram within and transfer funds to “U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement—Operations and Support” as necessary to ensure the detention of aliens prioritized for removal.

SEC. 215. The reports required to be submitted under section 216 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2021 (division F of Public Law 116-260) shall continue to be submitted semimonthly and each matter required to be included in such reports by such section 216 shall apply in the same manner and to the same extent during the period described in such section 216.

SEC. 216. The terms and conditions of sections 216 and 217 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2020 (division D of Public Law 116-93) shall apply to this Act.

SEC. 217. (a) Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement shall provide a briefing and submit an initial, written obligation plan for funding provided under the heading “U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement” in this or any other Act, including prior Acts, to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, which shall—

(1) be delineated by month, level II program, project, and activity, and pay and non-pay requirements;

(2) incorporate and delineate all funding sources available to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, to include unobligated carryover balances and fees; and

(3) contain data-driven assumptions for major contract costs, projected personnel levels, and operational and policy considerations.

(b) The Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement shall provide monthly briefings and written updates to the plan required in subsection (a), which shall include, at a minimum, the following information as of the conclusion of the preceding month—

(1) actual obligations and expenditures, including prior year;

(2) carryover from prior year unobligated balances;

(3) resource projections for the remainder of the fiscal year;

(4) payroll projections for the remainder of the fiscal year, based on forecasted gains and losses;

(5) identification of any contracts with a period of performance extending beyond the current fiscal year;

(6) obligations and expenditures for specific domestic and international investigative mission areas, including countering fentanyl and child exploitation;

(7) the rate of operations for the Custody Operations, Alternatives to Detention, and

Transportation and Removal Operations programs, projects, and activities, which shall include a projection of the exhaustion of funds based on current resources and operational levels; and

(8) the initial obligation plan as described in subsection (a), displayed unchanged for the purposes of comparison.

(c) The monthly updates required by subsection (b) shall be submitted no later than 15 days after the beginning of the month following the submission of the initial obligation plan as described in subsection (a).

(d)(1) For an additional amount for “U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement—Operations and Support—Executive Leadership and Oversight”, \$100,000, which shall be made available for Mission Support—Executive Leadership and Oversight on the sixteenth day of each month, in a total amount for the fiscal year not to exceed \$700,000.

(2) Beginning 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, amounts in paragraph (1) shall only be made available for obligation in a given month if the reporting requirements set forth in subsections (a) and (b) of this section are provided to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate within the timeframe required pursuant to subsections (a) and (c), respectively.

SEC. 218. (a) Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a written execution plan for the funding provided by Public Law 119-21 for detention facilities, to include the following elements:

(1) the location, number of beds, and estimated cost per bed of each detention facility utilized by or on behalf of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in the preceding quarter;

(2) the location, number of beds, and estimated cost per bed of each detention facility projected to be utilized by or on behalf of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in the subsequent quarter;

(3) the total number of beds projected to be utilized by or on behalf of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement through the end of the fiscal year;

(4) any associated increase or decrease in transportation and removal operations cost estimates associated with paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of this section, to include removal flights; and

(5) a general overview of the desired geographic end-state for detention facilities, any new operational models or strategies related to detention capacity that will be utilized, and a comparison of current detention capacity against projected end-state capacity.

(b)(1) Subsequent to the submission of the written execution plan provided in subsection (a), the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a briefing and written update to such execution plan not later than 30 days following the end of each fiscal quarter; and

(2) each briefing and written update described in paragraph (1) shall include a review of the execution of funds for the most recently completed quarter, a comparison of the actual execution of funds in relation to the planned execution of funds, and any remedial actions taken in the case of a failure to execute funding in accordance with the initial execution plan as described in subsection (a); and

(c) The initial execution plan described in subsection (a) shall be displayed unchanged for purposes of comparison in the briefings

and written updates described in subsection (b).

SEC. 219. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be used to reduce the presence of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement attachés or liaisons at international U.S. embassies or consulates for the purposes of international investigations or partnerships with foreign law enforcement.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a reduction of presence in a specific country if—

(1) the Secretary of Homeland Security, in collaboration with the Secretary of State, provides a written explanation of how maintaining a collaborative investigatory presence in a specific country undermines U.S. foreign policy interests in that country to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate; or

(2) a country requests the cessation of collaborative law enforcement activities performed by the attaché or liaison stationed at the embassy or consulate to their country.

SEC. 220. (a) Members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate, including the leadership; the heads of Federal agencies and commissions, including the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Under Secretaries, and Assistant Secretaries of the Department of Homeland Security; the United States Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, Assistant Attorneys General, and the United States Attorneys; and senior members of the Executive Office of the President, including the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall not be exempt from Federal passenger and baggage screening.

(b) None of the funds made available in this or any other Act, including prior Acts, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees available to the components funded by this Act may be used to carry out legislation altering the applicability of the screening requirements outlined in subsection (a).

SEC. 221. Notwithstanding section 44923 of title 49, United States Code, for fiscal year 2026, any funds in the Aviation Security Capital Fund established by section 44923(h) of title 49, United States Code, may be used for the procurement and installation of explosives detection systems or for the issuance of other transaction agreements for the purpose of funding projects described in section 44923(a) of such title.

SEC. 222. Not later than 45 days after the submission of the President's budget proposal, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations and Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations and Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a single report that fulfills the following requirements:

(1) a Capital Investment Plan, both constrained and unconstrained, that includes a plan for continuous and sustained capital investment in new, and the replacement of aged, transportation security equipment;

(2) the 5-year technology investment plan as required by section 1611 of title XVI of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as amended by section 3 of the Transportation Security Acquisition Reform Act (Public Law 113-245); and

(3) the Advanced Integrated Passenger Screening Technologies report as required by the Senate Report accompanying the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2019 (Senate Report 115-283).

SEC. 223. Section 515(b) of Public Law 108-334 (49 U.S.C. 44945 note) is amended by striking “report” each place it appears (including in the subsection heading) and inserting

“briefing” and by striking “transmit to” and inserting “provide”.

SEC. 224. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act under the heading “Coast Guard—Operations and Support” shall be for expenses incurred for recreational vessels under section 12114 of title 46, United States Code, except to the extent fees are collected from owners of yachts and credited to the appropriation made available by this Act under the heading “Coast Guard—Operations and Support”.

(b) To the extent such fees are insufficient to pay expenses of recreational vessel documentation under such section 12114, and there is a backlog of recreational vessel applications, personnel performing non-recreational vessel documentation functions under subchapter II of chapter 121 of title 46, United States Code, may perform documentation under section 12114.

SEC. 225. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a future-years capital investment plan as described in the second proviso under the heading “Coast Guard—Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements” in the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 114-4), which shall be subject to the requirements in the third and fourth provisos under such heading.

SEC. 226. None of the funds in this Act shall be used to reduce the Coast Guard's legacy Operations Systems Center mission or its government-employed or contract staff levels.

SEC. 227. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to conduct, or to implement the results of, a competition under Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76 for activities performed with respect to the Coast Guard National Vessel Documentation Center.

SEC. 228. Funds made available in this Act may be used to alter operations within the Civil Engineering Program of the Coast Guard nationwide, including civil engineering units, facilities design and construction centers, maintenance and logistics commands, and the Coast Guard Academy, except that none of the funds provided in this Act may be used to reduce operations within any civil engineering unit unless specifically authorized by a statute enacted after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 229. Amounts deposited into the Coast Guard Housing Fund in fiscal year 2026 shall be available until expended to carry out the purposes of section 2946 of title 14, United States Code, and shall be in addition to funds otherwise available for such purposes.

SEC. 230. (a) For an additional amount for “Coast Guard—Procurement, Construction, and Improvements”, \$98,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030, for the procurement and acquisition of MQ-9 aircraft and associated base stations, equipment related to such aircraft and associated base stations, and program management for such aircraft and base stations.

(b) None of the funds made available for the Department of Homeland Security in this or any prior Act may be used to procure or acquire long-range unmanned aircraft with kinetic capabilities or to equip any long-range unmanned aircraft with kinetic capabilities.

SEC. 231. None of the funds made available to the United States Coast Guard by this Act may be available for implementation of Force Design 2028 until the Coast Guard provides the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailed briefings on the initiatives of organization, people, technology, and contracting and acquisitions.

SEC. 232. The United States Secret Service is authorized to obligate funds in anticipation of reimbursements from executive agencies, as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code, for personnel receiving training sponsored by the James J. Rowley Training Center, except that total obligations at the end of the fiscal year shall not exceed total budgetary resources available under the heading "United States Secret Service—Operations and Support" at the end of the fiscal year.

SEC. 233. (a) None of the funds made available to the United States Secret Service by this Act or by previous appropriations Acts may be made available for the protection of the head of a Federal agency other than the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(b) The Director of the United States Secret Service may enter into agreements to provide such protection on a fully reimbursable basis.

SEC. 234. For purposes of section 503(a)(3) of this Act, up to \$15,000,000 may be reprogrammed within "United States Secret Service—Operations and Support".

SEC. 235. Funding made available in this Act for "United States Secret Service—Operations and Support" is available for travel of United States Secret Service employees on protective missions without regard to the limitations on such expenditures in this or any other Act if the Director of the United States Secret Service or a designee notifies the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate 10 or more days in advance, or as early as practicable, prior to such expenditures.

SEC. 236. Of the amounts made available by this Act under the heading "United States Secret Service—Operations and Support", \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be distributed as a grant or cooperative agreement for existing National Computer Forensics Institute facilities currently used by the United States Secret Service to carry out activities under section 383 of title 6, United States Code.

SEC. 237. (a) Section 118 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2001 (5 U.S.C. 5547 note) is amended, in the first sentence, by inserting "(or, for 2024, to the extent that such aggregate amount would exceed the per annum rate of salary payable under section 104 of title 3, United States Code)" before the period at the end.

(b) Subsection (a) shall take effect as if enacted on December 31, 2023.

(c) Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter through 2028, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate; the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate of Congress a report describing the steps that the United States Secret Service is taking to address the increased protective service demands placed upon United States Secret Service personnel.

(d) Each report required under subparagraph (c) shall include the following:

(1) An analysis of the current (as of the date on which the report is submitted) operational demands and staffing levels with respect to the United States Secret Service.

(2) Recommended strategies for reducing overtime requirements for United States Secret Service personnel, including—

(i) the appointment of additional personnel;

(ii) solutions such that sufficient resources are available throughout each year without

the need for exceptions to, or waivers of, premium pay limitations;

(iii) the redistribution of workload among United States Secret Service personnel; and

(iv) other improvements in operational efficiency with respect to the United States Secret Service.

(e) Within the reports required under paragraphs (3) and (4) of section 2(c) of the Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act of 2023 (Public Law 118-38; 138 Stat. 13) that are submitted after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall include information about—

(1) the average number of overtime hours and range of number of overtime hours completed by United States Secret Service personnel receiving premium pay above the pay limitation in subsection (a) of section 5547 of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) the average number of overtime hours and range of number of overtime hours completed by United States Secret Service personnel who are not fully compensated for their overtime because their premium pay would be above the pay limitation in section 2 of the Overtime Pay Protection Act of 2016 (5 U.S.C. 5547 note).

(f) The matter preceding the first proviso under the heading "United States Secret Service—Operations and Support" in division C of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied to funds appropriated by this Act by substituting "\$40,000,000" for "\$24,000,000" and substituting "2024" for "2023".

SEC. 238. Section 211 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2021 (division F of Public Law 116-260), prohibiting the use of funds for the construction of fencing in certain areas, shall apply with respect to funds made available in this Act in the same manner as such section applied to funds made available in that Act.

TITLE III

PROTECTION, PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY

CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY

OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For necessary expenses of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency for operations and support, \$2,218,634,000, which shall be for the purposes and in the amounts specified in the "Final Bill" column for Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Operations and Support in the "Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2026" table in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), of which amounts made available for Risk Management Operations, National Infrastructure Simulation Analysis Center shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$3,825 shall be for official reception and representation expenses.

PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVEMENTS

For necessary expenses of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency for procurement, construction, and improvements, \$386,464,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For necessary expenses of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for operations and support, \$1,667,038,000: *Provided*, That not less than \$3,000,000 shall be for the Emergency Management Assistance Compact: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$2,250 shall be for official reception and representation expenses.

PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVEMENTS

For necessary expenses of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for procurement, construction, and improvements, \$156,419,000, of which \$92,794,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028, and of which \$63,625,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030.

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

For activities of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for Federal assistance through grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other activities, \$3,836,748,513, which shall be allocated as follows:

(1) \$494,000,000 for the State Homeland Security Grant Program under section 2004 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 605), of which \$85,500,000 shall be for Operation Stonegarden and \$14,250,000 shall be for Tribal Homeland Security Grants under section 2005 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 606): *Provided*, That notwithstanding subsection (c)(4) of such section 2004, for fiscal year 2026, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico shall make available to local and tribal governments amounts provided to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico under this paragraph in accordance with subsection (c)(1) of such section 2004.

(2) \$584,250,000 for the Urban Area Security Initiative under section 2003 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 604).

(3) \$300,000,000 for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program under section 2009 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 609a), of which \$150,000,000 is for eligible recipients located in high-risk urban areas that receive funding under section 2003 of such Act and \$150,000,000 is for eligible recipients that are located outside such areas: *Provided*, That eligible recipients are those described in section 2009(b) of such Act (6 U.S.C. 609a(b)) or are an otherwise eligible recipient at risk of a terrorist or other extremist attack.

(4) \$99,750,000 for Public Transportation Security Assistance, Railroad Security Assistance, and Over-the-Road Bus Security Assistance under sections 1406, 1513, and 1532 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (6 U.S.C. 1135, 1163, and 1182), of which \$9,500,000 shall be for Amtrak security and \$1,900,000 shall be for Over-the-Road Bus Security: *Provided*, That such public transportation security assistance shall be provided directly to public transportation agencies.

(5) \$95,000,000 for Port Security Grants in accordance with section 70107 of title 46, United States Code.

(6) \$684,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, of which \$342,000,000 shall be for Assistance to Firefighter Grants and \$342,000,000 shall be for Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants under sections 33 and 34 respectively of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229 and 2229a).

(7) \$337,250,000 for emergency management performance grants under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.), the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121), the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7701), section 762 of title 6, United States Code, and Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(8) \$297,113,000 for necessary expenses for Flood Hazard Mapping and Risk Analysis, in addition to and to supplement any other sums appropriated under the National Flood Insurance Fund, and such additional sums as may be provided by States or other political subdivisions for cost-shared mapping activities under section 1360(f)(2) of the National

Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4101(f)(2)), to remain available until expended.

(9) \$11,400,000 for Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grants.

(10) \$11,400,000 for Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams under section 8A of the National Dam Safety Program Act (33 U.S.C. 467f-2).

(11) \$123,500,000 for the emergency food and shelter program under title III of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11331), to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That not to exceed 3.5 percent shall be for total administrative costs.

(12) \$48,000,000 for the Next Generation Warning System.

(13) \$272,671,513 for Community Project Funding and Congressionally Directed Spending grants, which shall be for the purposes, and the amounts, specified in the table entitled “Homeland Security—Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending” under the “Disclosure of Earmarks and Congressionally Directed Spending Items” heading in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), of which—

(A) \$82,957,854, in addition to amounts otherwise made available for such purpose, is for emergency operations center grants under section 614 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5196c); and

(B) \$189,713,659, in addition to amounts otherwise made available for such purpose, is for pre-disaster mitigation grants under section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133(e)), notwithstanding subsections (f), (g), and (l) of that section (42 U.S.C. 5133(f), (g), (l)).

(14) \$478,414,000 to sustain current operations for training, exercises, technical assistance, and other programs, of which—

(A) \$85,711,000 is for the Center for Domestic Preparedness;

(B) \$17,100,000 is for the Center for Homeland Defense and Security;

(C) \$33,366,000 is for the Emergency Management Institute;

(D) \$72,140,000 is for the United States Fire Administration;

(E) \$95,950,000 is for the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium;

(F) \$15,200,000 is for Continuing Training Grants;

(G) \$21,266,000 is for the National Exercise Program;

(H) \$83,657,000 is for the Biological Support Program;

(I) \$34,465,000 is for the Securing the Cities Program; and

(J) \$19,559,000 is for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Training, Exercises, and Readiness.

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

For necessary expenses in carrying out the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), \$26,367,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amount shall be for major disasters declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) and is designated by the Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE FUND

For activities under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.), the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.), the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-141, 126 Stat. 916), and the Homeowner

Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-89; 128 Stat. 1020), \$226,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, which shall be derived from offsetting amounts collected under section 1308(d) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4015(d)); of which \$16,302,000 shall be available for mission support associated with flood management; and of which \$209,698,000 shall be available for flood plain management and flood mapping: *Provided*, That any additional fees collected pursuant to section 1308(d) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4015(d)) shall be credited as offsetting collections to this account, to be available for flood plain management and flood mapping: *Provided further*, That in fiscal year 2026, no funds shall be available from the National Flood Insurance Fund under section 1310 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4017) in excess of—

(1) \$230,669,000 for operating expenses and salaries and expenses associated with flood insurance operations;

(2) \$1,505,000,000 for commissions and taxes of agents;

(3) such sums as are necessary for interest on Treasury borrowings; and

(4) \$175,000,000, which shall remain available until expended, for flood mitigation actions and for flood mitigation assistance under section 1366 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4104c), notwithstanding sections 1366(e) and 1310(a)(7) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 4104c(e), 4017):

Provided further, That the amounts collected under section 102 of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4012a) and section 1366(e) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4104c(e)), shall be deposited in the National Flood Insurance Fund to supplement other amounts specified as available for section 1366 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, notwithstanding section 102(f)(8), section 1366(e) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, and paragraphs (1) through (3) of section 1367(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 4012a(f)(8), 4104c(e), 4104d(b)(1)–(3)): *Provided further*, That total administrative costs shall not exceed 4 percent of the total appropriation: *Provided further*, That up to \$4,000,000 is available to carry out section 24 of the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 (42 U.S.C. 4033).

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 301. Funds made available under the heading “Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency—Operations and Support” may be made available for the necessary expenses of procuring or providing access to cybersecurity threat feeds for branches, agencies, independent agencies, corporations, establishments, and instrumentalities of the Federal Government of the United States, State, local, tribal, and territorial entities, fusion centers as described in section 210A of the Homeland Security Act (6 U.S.C. 124h), and Information Sharing and Analysis Organizations.

SEC. 302. (a) Notwithstanding section 2008(a)(12) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 609(a)(12)) or any other provision of law, not more than 5 percent of the amount of a grant made available in paragraphs (1) through (5) under “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Federal Assistance”, may be used by the recipient for expenses directly related to administration of the grant.

(b) The authority provided in subsection (a) shall also apply to a state recipient for the administration of a grant under such paragraph (3).

SEC. 303. (a) Applications for grants under the heading “Federal Emergency Manage-

ment Agency—Federal Assistance”, for paragraphs (1) through (5), shall be made available to eligible applicants not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, eligible applicants shall submit applications not later than 80 days after the grant announcement, and the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall act within 65 days after the receipt of an application.

(b) Amounts appropriated by this Act for “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Operations and Support” shall be reduced by \$100,000 for each day past the 60-day requirement that applications are not made available to eligible applicants as required in subsection (a), and the amount made available under such heading and specified in the “Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2026” table in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this Consolidated Act) for Mission Support shall be correspondingly reduced by an equivalent amount.

SEC. 304. (a) Under the heading “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Federal Assistance”, for grants under paragraphs (1) through (5), (9), and (10) the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall brief the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate five full business days in advance of announcing publicly the intention of making an award.

(b) If any such public announcement is made before five full business days have elapsed following such briefing, \$1,000,000 of amounts appropriated by this Act for “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Operations and Support” shall be rescinded, and the amount made available under such heading and specified in the “Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2026” table in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this Consolidated Act) for Mission Support shall be correspondingly reduced by an equivalent amount.

SEC. 305. Under the heading “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Federal Assistance”, for grants under paragraphs (1) and (2), the installation of communications towers is not considered construction of a building or other physical facility.

SEC. 306. The reporting requirements in paragraphs (1) and (2) under the heading “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Disaster Relief Fund” in the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 114-4), related to reporting on the Disaster Relief Fund, shall be applied in fiscal year 2026 with respect to budget year 2027 and current fiscal year 2026, respectively—

(1) in paragraph (1) by substituting “fiscal year 2027” for “fiscal year 2016”; and

(2) in paragraph (2) by inserting “business” after “fifth”.

SEC. 307. In making grants under the heading “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Federal Assistance”, for Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grants, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency may grant waivers from the requirements in subsections (a)(1)(A), (a)(1)(B), (a)(1)(E), (c)(1), (c)(2), and (c)(4) of section 34 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229a).

SEC. 308. (a) The aggregate charges assessed during fiscal year 2026, as authorized in title III of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (42 U.S.C. 5196e), shall not be less than 100 percent of the amounts anticipated by the Department of Homeland Security to be necessary for its Radiological Emergency

Preparedness Program for the next fiscal year.

(b) The methodology for assessment and collection of fees shall be fair and equitable and shall reflect costs of providing such services, including administrative costs of collecting such fees.

(c) Such fees shall be deposited in a Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program account as offsetting collections and will become available for authorized purposes on October 1, 2026, and remain available until expended.

SEC. 309. In making grants under the heading “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Federal Assistance”, for Assistance to Firefighter Grants, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency may waive subsection (k) of section 33 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229).

SEC. 310. Any unobligated balances of funds appropriated in any prior Act for activities funded by the National Predisastrer Mitigation Fund under section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of section 1234 of division D of Public Law 115-254, shall be transferred to and merged with funds set aside pursuant to subsection (i)(1) of section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133), as in effect on the date of the enactment of this section.

SEC. 311. Any unobligated balances of funds appropriated under the heading “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Flood Hazard Mapping and Risk Analysis Program” in any prior Act shall be transferred to and merged with funds appropriated under the heading “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Federal Assistance” for necessary expenses for Flood Hazard Mapping and Risk Analysis: *Provided*, That funds transferred pursuant to this section shall be in addition to and supplement any other sums appropriated for such purposes under the National Flood Insurance Fund and such additional sums as may be provided by States or other political subdivisions for cost-shared mapping activities under section 1360(f)(2) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4101(f)(2)), to remain available until expended.

SEC. 312. Each award for grants under the heading “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Federal Assistance” for paragraphs (1) through (10) and (12), shall have a period of performance, as defined by 2 CFR 200.1, that shall be of not less than three years and not more than five years.

SEC. 313. (a) The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall post an interactive dashboard on the public-facing website of the Federal Emergency Management Agency with any request for reimbursement for a covered expense, delineated by state and any amount for individual assistance or public assistance related to emergency (42 U.S.C. 5122(1)) or major disaster (42 U.S.C. 5122(2)) declarations under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).—

(1) not more than 90 days after such information has been received by the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and

(2) not more than 60 days after such information is under final review by the Department of Homeland Security.

(b) The information in the interactive dashboard referenced in subsection (a) shall include at a minimum the information listed in subparagraphs (1) through (7) under the heading in the paragraph titled “Public and Individual Assistance” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the mat-

ter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

SEC. 314. (a) None of the funds appropriated in this Act may be used to pause a training or grant funded under the heading “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Federal Assistance”.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply if the Secretary of Homeland Security notifies the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not more than 10 business days in advance of the pause.

(c) The notification required by subsection (b) shall include an explanation for the pause, plans to make up any missed classes resulting from the pause, and the budgetary impact of any paused training.

(d) The Secretary may waive the requirement in subsection (b) in the event of extraordinary circumstances that imminently threaten the safety of human life or the protection of property.

TITLE IV

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING, AND SERVICES

U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For necessary expenses of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for operations and support, including for the E-Verify Program, \$122,941,000: *Provided*, That such amounts shall be in addition to any other amounts made available for such purposes, and shall not be construed to require any reduction of any fee described in section 286(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(m)): *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$5,000 shall be for official reception and representation expenses.

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTERS

OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For necessary expenses of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers for operations and support, including the purchase of not to exceed 117 vehicles for police-type use and hire of passenger motor vehicles, and services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, \$379,837,000, of which \$75,551,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$7,180 shall be for official reception and representation expenses.

PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVEMENTS

For necessary expenses of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers for procurement, construction, and improvements, \$18,300,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030, for acquisition of necessary additional real property and facilities, construction and ongoing maintenance, facility improvements, and related expenses of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DIRECTORATE OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For necessary expenses of the Science and Technology Directorate for operations and support, including the purchase or lease of not to exceed 5 vehicles, \$352,802,000, of which \$201,183,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$10,000 shall be for official reception and representation expenses.

PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVEMENTS

For necessary expenses of the Science and Technology Directorate for procurement, construction, and improvements, \$51,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses of the Science and Technology Directorate for research and de-

velopment, \$426,904,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds otherwise made available to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services may be used to acquire, operate, equip, and dispose of up to 5 vehicles, for replacement only, for areas where the Administrator of General Services does not provide vehicles for lease.

(b) The Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services may authorize employees who are assigned to those areas to use such vehicles to travel between the employees' residences and places of employment.

SEC. 402. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to process or approve a competition under Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76 for services provided by employees (including employees serving on a temporary or term basis) of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services of the Department of Homeland Security who are known as Immigration Information Officers, Immigration Service Analysts, Contact Representatives, Investigative Assistants, or Immigration Services Officers.

SEC. 403. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any Federal funds made available to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services may be used for the collection and use of biometrics taken at a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Application Support Center that is overseen virtually by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services personnel using appropriate technology.

SEC. 404. The Director of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers is authorized to distribute funds to Federal law enforcement agencies for expenses incurred participating in training accreditation.

SEC. 405. The Federal Law Enforcement Training Accreditation Board, including representatives from the Federal law enforcement community and non-Federal accreditation experts involved in law enforcement training, shall lead the Federal law enforcement training accreditation process to continue the implementation of measuring and assessing the quality and effectiveness of Federal law enforcement training programs, facilities, and instructors.

SEC. 406. (a) The Director of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers may accept transfers to its “Procurement, Construction, and Improvements” account from Government agencies requesting the construction of special use facilities, as authorized by the Economy Act (31 U.S.C. 1535(b)).

(b) The Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers shall maintain administrative control and ownership upon completion of such facilities.

SEC. 407. The functions of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers instructor staff shall be classified as inherently governmental for purposes of the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998 (31 U.S.C. 501 note).

TITLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS AND RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 501. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 502. Subject to the requirements of section 503 of this Act, the unexpended balances of prior appropriations provided for activities in this Act may be transferred to appropriation accounts for such activities established pursuant to this Act, may be merged with funds in the applicable established accounts, and thereafter may be accounted for as one fund for the same time period as originally enacted.

SEC. 503. (a) None of the funds provided by this Act, provided by previous appropriations Acts to the components in or transferred to the Department of Homeland Security that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2026, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees available to the components funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) creates or eliminates a program, project, or activity, or increases funds for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by the Congress;

(2) contracts out any function or activity presently performed by Federal employees or any new function or activity proposed to be performed by Federal employees in the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Homeland Security;

(3) augments funding for existing programs, projects, or activities in excess of \$5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less;

(4) reduces funding for any program, project, or activity, or numbers of personnel, by 10 percent or more; or

(5) results from any general savings from a reduction in personnel that would result in a change in funding levels for programs, projects, or activities as approved by the Congress.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply if the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate are notified at least 30 days in advance of such reprogramming.

(c) Up to 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the Department of Homeland Security by this Act or provided by previous appropriations Acts may be transferred between such appropriations if the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate are notified at least 30 days in advance of such transfer, but no such appropriation, except as otherwise specifically provided, shall be increased by more than 10 percent by such transfer.

(d) Notwithstanding subsections (a), (b), and (c), no funds shall be reprogrammed within or transferred between appropriations—

(1) based upon an initial notification provided after June 15, except in extraordinary circumstances that imminently threaten the safety of human life or the protection of property;

(2) to increase or decrease funding for grant programs; or

(3) to create a program, project, or activity pursuant to subsection (a)(1), including any new function or requirement within any program, project, or activity, not approved by Congress in the consideration of the enactment of this Act.

(e) The notification thresholds and procedures set forth in subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) shall apply to any use of deobligated balances of funds provided in previous Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Acts that remain available for obligation in the current year.

(f) Notwithstanding subsection (c), the Secretary of Homeland Security may transfer to the fund established by 8 U.S.C. 1101 note, up to \$20,000,000 from appropriations available to the Department of Homeland Security: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate at least 5 days in advance of such transfer.

SEC. 504. (a) Section 504 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2017 (division F of Public Law 115-31), related

to the operations of a working capital fund, shall apply with respect to funds made available in this Act in the same manner as such section applied to funds made available in that Act.

(b) Funds from such working capital fund may be obligated and expended in anticipation of reimbursements from components of the Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 505. (a) Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, not to exceed 50 percent of unobligated balances remaining available at the end of fiscal year 2026, as recorded in the financial records at the time of a reprogramming notification, but not later than June 15, 2027, from appropriations for “Operations and Support” for fiscal year 2026 in this Act shall remain available through September 30, 2027, in the account and for the purposes for which the appropriations were provided.

(b) Prior to the obligation of such funds, a notification shall be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate in accordance with section 503 of this Act.

SEC. 506. (a) Funds made available by this Act for intelligence activities are deemed to be specifically authorized by the Congress for purposes of section 504 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 414) during fiscal year 2026 until the enactment of an Act authorizing intelligence activities for fiscal year 2026.

(b) Amounts described in subsection (a) made available for “Intelligence, Analysis, and Situational Awareness—Operations and Support” that exceed the amounts in such authorization for such account shall be transferred to and merged with amounts made available under the heading “Management Directorate—Operations and Support”.

(c) Prior to the obligation of any funds transferred under subsection (b), the Undersecretary for Management shall brief the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on a plan for the use of such funds.

SEC. 507. (a) The Secretary of Homeland Security, or the designee of the Secretary, shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate at least three full business days in advance of—

(1) making or awarding a grant allocation or grant in excess of \$1,000,000 or a grant made from the Disaster Relief Fund in excess of \$100,000;

(2) making or awarding a contract, other transaction agreement, or task or delivery order on a multiple award contract, or to issue a letter of intent totaling in excess of \$2,000,000;

(3) awarding a task or delivery order requiring an obligation of funds in an amount greater than \$5,000,000 from multi-year Department of Homeland Security funds;

(4) making a sole-source grant award; or

(5) announcing publicly the intention to make or award items under paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (4) including a contract covered by the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

(b) If the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that compliance with this section would pose a substantial risk to human life, health, or safety, an award may be made without notification, and the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than three full business days after such an award is made or letter issued.

(c) A notification under this section—

(1) may not involve funds that are not available for obligation; and

(2) shall include the amount of the award; the fiscal year for which the funds for the award were appropriated; the type of contract; and the account from which the funds are being drawn.

SEC. 508. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no agency shall purchase, construct, or lease any additional facilities, except within or contiguous to existing locations, to be used for the purpose of conducting Federal law enforcement training without advance notification to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, except that the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers is authorized to obtain the temporary use of additional facilities by lease, contract, or other agreement for training that cannot be accommodated in existing Centers' facilities.

SEC. 509. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used for expenses for any construction, repair, alteration, or acquisition project for which a prospectus otherwise required under chapter 33 of title 40, United States Code, has not been approved, except that necessary funds may be expended for each project for required expenses for the development of a proposed prospectus.

SEC. 510. Sections 522 and 530 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2008 (division E of Public Law 110-161; 121 Stat. 2073 and 2074) shall apply with respect to funds made available in this Act in the same manner as such sections applied to funds made available in that Act.

SEC. 511. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used in contravention of the applicable provisions of the Buy American Act.

(b) For purposes of subsection (a), the term “Buy American Act” means chapter 83 of title 41, United States Code.

SEC. 512. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to amend the oath of allegiance required by section 337 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1448).

SEC. 513. (a) None of the funds provided or otherwise made available by this Act may be made available to carry out section 872 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 452) unless explicitly authorized by the Congress after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to the use of the authorities provided by such section 872—

(1) to allocate or reallocate the functions of the Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office to other offices and organizational units within the Department consistent with the “Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction” table in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act); or

(2) to allocate or reallocate any other functions of the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office to other offices and organizational units within the Department consistent with the “Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction” table in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

(c) Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Secretary may transfer funds made available in prior appropriations Acts to the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office between any appropriations available to the Department as necessary to carry out the purposes described in subsection (b).

SEC. 514. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for planning, testing, piloting, or developing a national identification card.

SEC. 515. Any official that is required by this Act to report or to certify to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate may not delegate such authority to perform that act unless specifically authorized herein.

SEC. 516. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for first-class travel

by the employees of agencies funded by this Act in contravention of sections 301–10.122 through 301–10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 517. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to employ workers described in section 274A(h)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(h)(3)).

SEC. 518. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to pay award or incentive fees for contractor performance that has been judged to be below satisfactory performance or performance that does not meet the basic requirements of a contract.

SEC. 519. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, territorial, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 520. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by a Federal law enforcement officer to facilitate the transfer of an operable firearm to an individual if the Federal law enforcement officer knows or suspects that the individual is an agent of a drug cartel unless law enforcement personnel of the United States continuously monitor or control the firearm at all times.

SEC. 521. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to pay for the travel to or attendance of more than 50 employees of a single component of the Department of Homeland Security, who are stationed in the United States, at a single international conference unless the Secretary of Homeland Security, or a designee, determines that such attendance is in the national interest and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate within at least 10 days of that determination and the basis for that determination.

(b) For purposes of this section the term “international conference” shall mean a conference occurring outside of the United States attended by representatives of the United States Government and of foreign governments, international organizations, or nongovernmental organizations.

(c) The total cost to the Department of Homeland Security of any such conference shall not exceed \$500,000.

(d) Employees who attend a conference virtually without travel away from their permanent duty station within the United States shall not be counted for purposes of this section, and the prohibition contained in this section shall not apply to payments for the costs of attendance for such employees.

SEC. 522. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to reimburse any Federal department or agency for its participation in a National Special Security Event.

SEC. 523. (a) None of the funds made available to the Department of Homeland Security by this or any other Act may be obligated for the implementation of any structural pay reform or the introduction of any new position classification that will affect more than 100 full-time positions or costs more than \$5,000,000 in a single year before the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date on which the Secretary of Homeland Security submits to Congress a notification that includes—

(1) the number of full-time positions affected by such change;

(2) funding required for such change for the current fiscal year and through the Future Years Homeland Security Program;

(3) justification for such change; and

(4) for a structural pay reform, an analysis of compensation alternatives to such change that were considered by the Department.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to such change if—

(1) it was proposed in the President’s budget proposal for the fiscal year funded by this Act; and

(2) funds for such change have not been explicitly denied or restricted in this Act.

SEC. 524. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), post on the public website of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate in this Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises homeland or national security; or

(2) the report contains proprietary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate for not less than 45 days except as otherwise specified in law.

(d) If the requirements of this section are not met, the reprogramming and transfer authority provided in section 503 of this Act shall be suspended until the requirements of subsection (a) are met.

SEC. 525. (a) Funding provided in this Act for “Operations and Support” may be used for minor procurement, construction, and improvements.

(b) For purposes of subsection (a), “minor” refers to end items with a unit cost of \$250,000 or less for personal property, and \$4,000,000 or less for real property.

SEC. 526. The authority provided by section 532 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141) regarding primary and secondary schooling of dependents shall continue in effect during fiscal year 2026.

SEC. 527. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), none of the funds made available in this Act may be used to place restraints on a woman in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security (including during transport, in a detention facility, or at an outside medical facility) who is pregnant or in post-delivery recuperation.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to a pregnant woman if—

(1) an appropriate official of the Department of Homeland Security makes an individualized determination that the woman—

(A) is a serious flight risk, and such risk cannot be prevented by other means; or

(B) poses an immediate and serious threat to harm herself or others that cannot be prevented by other means; or

(2) a medical professional responsible for the care of the pregnant woman determines that the use of therapeutic restraints is appropriate for the medical safety of the woman.

(c) If a pregnant woman is restrained pursuant to subsection (b), only the safest and least restrictive restraints, as determined by the appropriate medical professional treating the woman, may be used. In no case may restraints be used on a woman who is in active labor or delivery, and in no case may a pregnant woman be restrained in a face-down position with four-point restraints, on her back, or in a restraint belt that constricts the area of the pregnancy. A pregnant woman who is immobilized by restraints shall be positioned, to the maximum extent feasible, on her left side.

SEC. 528. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to destroy any document, recording, or other record pertaining to any—

(1) death of;

(2) potential sexual assault or abuse perpetrated against; or

(3) allegation of abuse, criminal activity, or disruption committed by an individual held in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security.

(b) The records referred to in subsection (a) shall be made available, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, and Federal rules governing disclosure in litigation, to an individual who has been charged with a crime, been placed into segregation, or otherwise punished as a result of an allegation described in paragraph (3), upon the request of such individual.

SEC. 529. Section 519 of division F of Public Law 114–113, regarding a prohibition on funding for any position designated as a Principal Federal Official, shall apply with respect to any Federal funds in the same manner as such section applied to funds made available in that Act.

SEC. 530. (a) Not later than 10 days after the date on which the budget of the President for a fiscal year is submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the Under Secretary for Management of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the unfunded priorities, for the Department of Homeland Security and separately for each departmental component, for which discretionary funding would be classified as budget function 050.

(b) Each report under this section shall specify, for each such unfunded priority—

(1) a summary description, including the objectives to be achieved if such priority is funded (whether in whole or in part);

(2) the description, including the objectives to be achieved if such priority is funded (whether in whole or in part);

(3) account information, including the following (as applicable):

(A) appropriation account; and

(B) program, project, or activity name; and

(4) the additional number of full-time or part-time positions to be funded as part of such priority.

(c) In this section, the term “unfunded priority”, in the case of a fiscal year, means a requirement that—

(1) is not funded in the budget referred to in subsection (a);

(2) is necessary to fulfill a requirement associated with an operational or contingency plan for the Department; and

(3) would have been recommended for funding through the budget referred to in subsection (a) if—

(A) additional resources had been available for the budget to fund the requirement;

(B) the requirement has emerged since the budget was formulated; or

(C) the requirement is necessary to sustain prior-year investments.

SEC. 531. (a) Not later than 10 days after a determination is made by the President to evaluate and initiate protection under any authority for a former or retired Government official or employee, or for an individual who, during the duration of the directed protection, will become a former or retired Government official or employee (referred to in this section as a “covered individual”), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a notification to congressional leadership and the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, the

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives (referred to in this section as the “appropriate congressional committees”).

(b) Such notification may be submitted in classified form, if necessary, and in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as appropriate, and shall include the threat assessment, scope of the protection, and the anticipated cost and duration of such protection.

(c) Not later than 15 days before extending, or 30 days before terminating, protection for a covered individual, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a notification regarding the extension or termination and any change to the threat assessment to the congressional leadership and the appropriate congressional committees.

(d) Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and quarterly thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to the congressional leadership and the appropriate congressional committees, which may be submitted in classified form, if necessary, detailing each covered individual, and the scope and associated cost of protection.

SEC. 532. (a) None of the funds provided to the Department of Homeland Security in this or any prior Act may be used by an agency to submit an initial project proposal to the Technology Modernization Fund (as authorized by section 1078 of subtitle G of title X of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91)) unless, concurrent with the submission of an initial project proposal to the Technology Modernization Board, the head of the agency—

(1) notifies the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the proposed submission of the project proposal;

(2) submits to the Committees on Appropriations a copy of the project proposal; and

(3) provides a detailed analysis of how the proposed project funding would supplement or supplant funding requested as part of the Department's most recent budget submission.

(b) None of the funds provided to the Department of Homeland Security by the Technology Modernization Fund shall be available for obligation until 15 days after a report on such funds has been transmitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

(c) The report described in subsection (b) shall include—

(1) the full project proposal submitted to and approved by the Fund's Technology Modernization Board;

(2) the finalized interagency agreement between the Department and the Fund including the project's deliverables and repayment terms, as applicable;

(3) a detailed analysis of how the project will supplement or supplant existing funding available to the Department for similar activities;

(4) a plan for how the Department will repay the Fund, including specific planned funding sources, as applicable; and

(5) other information as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 533. Within 60 days of any budget submission for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2027 that assumes revenues or proposes a reduction from the previous year based on user fees proposals that have not been enacted into law prior to the submission of the budget, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate specific re-

ductions in proposed discretionary budget authority commensurate with the revenues assumed in such proposals in the event that they are not enacted prior to October 1, 2026.

SEC. 534. None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended to implement the Arms Trade Treaty until the Senate approves a resolution of ratification for the Treaty.

SEC. 535. No Federal funds made available to the Department of Homeland Security may be used to enter into a procurement contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, or make a grant to, or provide a loan or guarantee to, any entity identified under section 1260H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283) or any subsidiary of such entity.

SEC. 536. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act may be used to transfer, release, or assist in the transfer or release to or within the United States, its territories, or possessions Khalid Sheikh Mohammed or any other detainee who—

(1) is not a United States citizen or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is or was held on or after June 24, 2009, at the United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by the Department of Defense.

SEC. 537. (a) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall, on a monthly basis beginning immediately after the date of enactment of this Act, develop estimates of the number of migrants anticipated to arrive at the southwest border of the United States.

(b) The Secretary shall ensure that, at a minimum, the estimates developed pursuant to subsection (a)—

(1) cover the current fiscal year and the following fiscal year;

(2) include a breakout by demographic, to include single adults, family units, and unaccompanied children;

(3) undergo an independent validation and verification review;

(4) are used to inform policy planning and budgeting processes within the Department of Homeland Security; and

(5) are included in the budget materials submitted to Congress for each fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act and in support of—

(A) the President's annual budget request pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code;

(B) any supplemental funding request submitted to Congress;

(C) any reprogramming and transfer notification pursuant to section 503 of this Act; and

(D) such budget materials shall include—

(i) the most recent monthly estimates developed pursuant to subsection (a);

(ii) a description and quantification of the estimates used to justify funding requests for Department programs related to border security, immigration enforcement, and immigration services;

(iii) a description and quantification of the anticipated workload and requirements resulting from such estimates; and

(iv) a confirmation as to whether the budget requests for impacted agencies were developed using the same estimates.

(c) The Secretary shall share the monthly estimates developed pursuant to subsection (a) with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, and the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

(d) If the monthly estimates described in subsection (b) are not provided for the pur-

poses described, the reprogramming and transfer authority provided in section 503 of this Act shall be suspended until such time as the required estimates are provided to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

SEC. 538. (a) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall, on a monthly basis beginning immediately after the date of enactment of this Act, develop estimates of the number of individuals anticipated to be detained in and removed from the United States.

(b) The Secretary shall ensure that, at a minimum, the estimates developed pursuant to subsection (a)—

(1) cover the current fiscal year and the following fiscal year;

(2) include a breakout by demographics, to include single adults and family units;

(3) undergo an independent validation and verification review;

(4) are used to inform policy planning and budgeting processes within the Department of Homeland Security; and

(5) are included in the budget materials submitted to Congress for each fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act and in support of—

(A) the President's annual budget request pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code;

(B) any supplemental funding request submitted to Congress;

(C) any reprogramming and transfer notification pursuant to section 503 of this Act; and

(D) such budget materials shall include—

(i) the most recent monthly estimates developed pursuant to subsection (a);

(ii) a description and quantification of the estimates used to justify funding requests for Department programs related to border security, immigration enforcement, and immigration services;

(iii) a description and quantification of the anticipated workload and requirements resulting from such estimates; and

(iv) a confirmation as to whether the budget requests for impacted agencies were developed using the same estimates.

(c) The Secretary shall share the monthly estimates developed pursuant to subsection (a) with the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, and the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

(d) If the monthly estimates described in subsection (b) are not provided for the purposes described, the reprogramming and transfer authority provided in section 503 of this Act shall be suspended until such time as the required estimates are provided to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

SEC. 539. (a) Prior to the Secretary of Homeland Security requesting assistance from the Department of Defense for border security operations, the Secretary shall ensure that an alternatives analysis and cost-benefit analysis is conducted before such request is made, which shall include an examination of obtaining such support through other means.

(b) Not later than 30 days after the date on which a request for assistance is made, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report detailing the types of support requested, the alternatives analysis and cost-benefit analysis described in subsection (a), and the operational impact to Department of Homeland Security operations of any Department of Defense border security support requested by the Secretary.

(c) Not later than 30 days after the date on which a request made for assistance is granted and quarterly thereafter through the duration of such assistance, the Secretary of

Homeland Security shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, a report detailing the assistance provided and the operational impacts to border security operations.

SEC. 540. Funds made available in this Act or any other Act for Operations and Support may be used for the necessary expenses of providing an employee emergency back-up care program.

SEC. 541. (a) Not less than \$5,000,000 made available in this Act shall be transferred to “U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement—Operations and Support” to support and conduct necessary operations of the Blue Campaign for fiscal year 2026.

(b) Prior to the obligation of funds made available by subsection (a), notification shall be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

SEC. 542. (a) If the reporting requirement set forth in paragraph (2) under the heading “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Disaster Relief Fund” in the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 114-4), as applied in this fiscal year by section 306 of this Act, is not submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate and published on the Agency’s website not later than the fifth business day of the applicable month, the amount made available for “Office of the Secretary and Executive Management—Operations and Support—Management and Oversight” shall be reduced by \$100,000 for each day such report is not submitted and published on the Agency’s website.

(b) During any period in which the total number of requests for reimbursement for a covered expense for individual assistance or public assistance related to emergency (42 U.S.C. 5122(1)) or major disaster (42 U.S.C. 5122(2)) declarations under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) that the Department of Homeland Security has been considering under final review for greater than 60 days exceeds 500, the amount made available for “Office of the Secretary and Executive Management—Operations and Support—Management and Oversight” shall be reduced by \$100,000 for each day during such period on which the cumulative total of requests over 60 days in final review exceeds 500.

(c) Subsection (b) shall not apply if the balance of funding for the Disaster Relief Fund is sufficient only for the purpose of obligating funds for activities determined to be lifesaving or life-sustaining.

SEC. 543. Section 16005(c) of title VI of division B of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116-136) shall be applied as if the language read as follows: “Subsection (a) shall apply until September 30, 2026.”

SEC. 544. The levels for appropriations accounts specified for classified programs in this Act shall conform to the direction included in the classified annex accompanying this Act and shall be implemented in a manner consistent with section 545.

SEC. 545. Upon a determination by the Director of National Intelligence that such action is necessary and in the national interest, the Director may, with the approval of the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, transfer amounts for the National Intelligence Program consistent with the percentage caps specified in section 503(c): *Provided*, That such authority to transfer may not be used unless for higher priority items, based on unforeseen intelligence requirements, than those for which originally

appropriated and in no case where the item for which funds are requested has been denied by the Congress: *Provided further*, That a request for any transfer of funds using authority provided in this section shall be made consistent with the requirements of section 503(d)(1).

SEC. 546. Within seven days of the date of enactment of this Act, and quarterly thereafter, the Department shall submit to the Committees on Appropriation of the House of Representatives and the Senate—

(1) an obligation plan by program, project, or activity for each component receiving funds from Public Law 119-21;

(2) estimated fee collections for each component collecting new or enhanced fees authorized by Public Law 119-21, delineated by collections that a component will retain and collections that a component will remit to other agencies or the Treasury; and

(3) an obligation plan by program, project, or activity for fee collections identified in paragraph (2) as being retained by a component within the Department.

SEC. 547. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Homeland Security by this Act may be used to prevent any of the following persons from entering, for the purpose of conducting oversight, any facility operated by or for the Department of Homeland Security used to detain or otherwise house aliens, or to make any temporary modification at any such facility that in any way alters what is observed by a visiting Member of Congress or such designated employee, compared to what would be observed in the absence of such modification:

(1) A Member of Congress.

(2) An employee of the United States House of Representatives or the United States Senate designated by such a Member for the purposes of this section.

(b) Nothing in this section may be construed to require a Member of Congress to provide prior notice of the intent to enter a facility described in subsection (a) for the purpose of conducting oversight.

(c) With respect to individuals described in subsection (a)(2), the Department of Homeland Security may require that a request be made at least 24 hours in advance of an intent to enter a facility described in subsection (a).

SEC. 548. In addition to amounts otherwise made available for such purposes, there is appropriated \$30,000,000, for an additional amount for “The Judiciary—Supreme Court of the United States—Salaries and Expenses”, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That amounts made available pursuant to this section shall be subject to the same authorities and conditions as if such amounts were provided under the heading “The Judiciary—Supreme Court of the United States—Salaries and Expenses” in the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2026.

SEC. 549. There is appropriated \$140,000,000 for an additional amount for “Department of Transportation—Federal Aviation Administration—Operations” for air traffic organization activities, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall only use such amounts to provide a rate of pay increase for calendar year 2026 of 3.8 percent, for air traffic controllers, as defined by section 2109(l)(A) of title 5, United States Code, and air traffic controller supervisors or managers who are not covered under such section, but who manage air traffic: *Provided further*, That such adjustment shall be implemented for all such employees only to the extent the Administrator determines, in his sole discretion, that improvements in workforce scheduling, staffing uti-

lization, or other operational efficiencies are achieved that contribute to addressing workforce shortfalls and enhancing aviation safety: *Provided further*, That if the Administrator makes such determination, then such adjustment shall be effective the first pay period beginning after January 1, 2026: *Provided further*, That amounts provided by this section shall be subject to the same authorities and conditions as if such amounts were provided by the Department of Transportation Appropriations Act, 2026.

SEC. 550. (a) Of the total amount provided under the heading “Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency—Operations and Support”, \$99,750,000 shall be derived by transfer from the unobligated balances of amounts previously appropriated under the heading “Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency—Cybersecurity Response and Recovery Fund” in division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58).

(b) Amounts derived by transfer pursuant to this section shall continue to be treated as amounts specified in section 103(b) of division A of Public Law 118-5.

(RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 551. Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Homeland Security, the following funds are hereby rescinded from the following accounts and programs in the specified amounts: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985:

(1) \$73,327,000 from the unobligated balances available in the “Management Directorate—Procurement, Construction, and Improvements” account (70 22/26 0406).

(2) \$6,713,000 from the unobligated balances available in the “U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Operations and Support” account (70 X 0530).

(3) \$387,000 from the unobligated balances available in the “U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Automation Modernization” account (70 X 0531).

(4) \$917,000 from the unobligated balances available in the “U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Procurement, Construction, and Improvements” account (70 X 0532).

(5) \$6,336,000 from the unobligated balances available in the “U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Border Security Fencing, Infrastructure, and Technology” account (70 X 0533).

(6) \$1,413,000 from the unobligated balances available in the “U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Air and Marine Interdiction, Operations, Maintenance, and Procurement” account (70 X 0544).

(7) \$172,000 from the unobligated balances available in the “Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency—Infrastructure Protection and Infrastructure Security” account (70 X 0565).

SEC. 552. The following unobligated balances made available to the Department of Homeland Security pursuant to section 505 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law 118-47), as incorporated by section 1101 of the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (Public Law 119-4), are rescinded:

(1) \$2,072,147 from “Office of the Secretary and Executive Management—Operations and Support”.

(2) \$5,487,177 from “Management Directorate—Operations and Support”.

(3) \$4,493,650 from “Intelligence, Analysis, and Situational Awareness—Operations and Support”.

(4) \$88,190 from “Office of the Inspector General—Operations and Support”.

(5) \$1,139,096 from “U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Operations and Support”.

(6) \$19,650,000 from “Transportation Security Administration—Operations and Support”.

(7) \$703,390 from “United States Secret Service—Operations and Support”.

(8) \$52,349,050 from “Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency—Operations and Support”.

(9) \$18,525,975 from “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Operations and Support”.

(10) \$120,860 from “U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services—Operations and Support”.

(11) \$178,340 from “Science and Technology Directorate—Operations and Support”.

(12) \$6,937,020 from “Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office—Operations and Support”.

SEC. 553. Of the unobligated balances in the “Department of Homeland Security Non-recurring Expenses Fund” established in section 538 of division F of Public Law 117-103, \$2,362,000 are hereby rescinded.

This division may be cited as the “Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2026”.

DIVISION B—FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

SEC. 1001. For the purposes of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026 (division A of Public Law 119-37), the time covered by such division shall be considered to include the period which began on or about February 13, 2026, during which there occurred a lapse in appropriations.

SEC. 1002. Amounts made available in the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026 (division A of Public Law 119-37) and by the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2026 (division A of this Act) for personnel pay, allowances, and benefits in each department and agency shall be available for payments pursuant to subsection (c) of section 1341 of title 31, United States Code and such payments shall be made.

SEC. 1003. All obligations incurred and in anticipation of the appropriations made and authority granted by the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026 (division A of Public Law 119-37) and by division A of this Act for the purposes of maintaining the essential level of activity to protect life and property and bringing about orderly termination of Government function, and for purposes as otherwise authorized by law, are hereby ratified and approved if otherwise in accord with the provisions of such Act.

This division may be cited as the “Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations, or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) and the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we are here once again on the House floor amidst a partial government shutdown. The bill before us isn't new. In fact, we debated this very same bill just 2 months ago. It reflects the bipartisan, bicameral agreement that Senate Democrats, at the last minute, failed to honor.

Shutting down the Department of Homeland Security over a partisan fight hasn't changed the stakes, but maybe, knowing how critical it is to keep the homeland safe at this heightened moment, Democrats will side with reason and protecting the Nation.

No matter the question, shutdowns are never the answer. I know my colleagues think that by shutting down the government, they are somehow punishing Donald Trump for winning the election, but President Trump is not the one feeling the pain of a shutdown.

They are punishing the TSA agents, who are working hard to keep their communities safe. They are punishing FEMA employees, who are trying to help Americans who are fighting through these winter storms. They are punishing the cybersecurity analysts at CISA, who are combating constant threats to our infrastructure and electric grid.

Hundreds of thousands of Federal employees in critical national security positions are being forced to work without pay. Their jobs leave no room for error, but they are being asked to continue that critical work with the added stress of not knowing when they will receive their next paycheck and not knowing if they will be able to put gas in their cars or food on their table.

A few weeks ago, we heard from TSA Acting Director McNeill at an Appropriations Committee hearing. She talked about the impact of the longest shutdown in history, which was also initiated by Democrats. She told us about agents sleeping in their cars in the airport parking lot rather than spending money on gas to drive home because they couldn't afford it, and officers who sold their blood and plasma or took second jobs with what little spare time they had just to have money to feed their families.

These hardworking families are just now barely recovered from the previous shutdown antics, and they are once again in the same confusing and undeserved position.

Closing down or shortchanging Federal agencies is irrational and irresponsible. This isn't something that anyone should be proud of.

It breaks my heart to hear of these stories. We know that shutdowns cause pain and uncertainty for the Nation. Personally, I would find it unconscionable if my vote was the reason that someone was sleeping in their car or if my vote was the reason that someone couldn't pay their mortgage this month. This isn't a game. These are real people and real lives.

In addition to the astoundingly negative human impact that this shutdown is having on men and women who work for DHS, it is directly impacting our ability to keep Americans safe during heightened national security threats.

In-person trainings at the National Fire Academy, the National Emergency Training Center, the Center for Domestic Preparedness, and the National Disaster and Emergency Management University have been canceled.

The FEMA Disaster Relief Fund has a low balance, and the account will continue to be drained without new appropriations. Wait times through our Nation's airports are already increasing as staffing strains hit the TSA workforce. There will be no new national flood insurance policies processed, impacting Americans who are buying homes.

CISA operates at limited capacity, with the majority of the workforce furloughed. Meanwhile, Iranian, Russian, and Chinese cyber actors continue targeting U.S. networks and critical infrastructure.

While Coast Guard servicemembers received their most recent check, civilian personnel are working without pay.

Homeland Security investigators, who investigate wide-ranging illicit activity, like drugs and weapons smuggling, as well as human trafficking, are not moving forward.

These limitations on our national security capabilities should concern us all. There is no reason to vote against this critical funding for our Department of Homeland Security at such an important time for our country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote “yes” to end this shutdown and to keep our Nation safe.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1220

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the bill. Let us face facts. The bill we are considering today has no chance of becoming law. It has already failed once. It will fail again.

Republican leadership is aware of this, but they still have chosen to waste our time on political theater, while President Trump's aimless, endless, and costly war with Iran puts American lives in danger.

Whether it is from crises abroad or masked agents at home, President Trump and Republicans are putting Americans at risk. Democrats are fighting to keep our communities safe, both from foreign adversaries and out-of-control Federal agents.

If the Republicans are actually serious about the threat that President Trump's war with Iran has caused, then they should move quickly to bring up my bill, which they rejected, which would fund FEMA, TSA, the Coast Guard, the Secret Service, Federal Law

Enforcement Training Centers, the Science and Technology Directorate, the Office of Inspector General, Federal Protective Services, and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, while setting funding for ICE and Customs and Border Protection aside as negotiations on those issues continues.

There is broad agreement on funding for these agencies. There is no controversy over funding disaster relief, aviation security, or making sure the men and women of the Coast Guard and the Secret Service are paid. What there is a significant controversy over, however, is how ICE and Customs and Border Protection have beaten, detained, harassed, and even killed law-abiding U.S. citizens with zero accountability.

I ask my colleagues across the aisle: Why not allow funding for the parts of Homeland Security over which we have no disagreements to pass? Allow the Disaster Relief Fund to be replenished. Allow TSA and Secret Service agents to be paid. Allow the Coast Guard to support its servicemembers and ensure our cybersecurity measures are in place while we continue to negotiate the reforms to ICE and Customs and Border Protection that the vast majority of Americans want to see enacted.

Republicans have called these reforms radical and unreasonable. I ask which reforms specifically they feel are out of line. Let me tell you where there is a broad support for these. Do they oppose prohibiting the detention or the deportation of U.S. citizens? Are they opposed to that? Are they opposed to requiring agents to get a warrant from a judge before kicking in someone's door? Are they opposed to removing masks, requiring badges and identification on uniforms? Are they opposed to prohibiting operations at sensitive locations, like schools, medical facilities, and houses of worship? Are they opposed to allowing independent investigations into wrongdoing? Are they opposed to ending racial profiling and ending roving patrols?

Those are the discussions that are underway. Let us continue to do that.

Are they really willing to block funding for the rest of the Department of Homeland Security because they believe so strongly that these armed Federal agents marauding our streets, armed and terrorizing our communities, should be allowed to hide their faces as they patrol our streets? Do they believe that that is the case?

Mr. Speaker, these reforms are fundamental. They are the same standards that law enforcement all across this country abide by. They protect our communities. They protect law enforcement. They protect our basic constitutional rights.

I encourage my Republican colleagues not to let their opposition to these necessary and overwhelmingly popular reforms stand in the way of funding the rest of the Department of Homeland Security, especially now as President Trump's war with Iran has put Americans at risk.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI), my very good friend and chairman of the Subcommittee on Homeland Security of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and my colleague, the ranking member on the other side, for their work.

Mr. Speaker, as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Homeland Security, obviously, I rise today in strong support of the fiscal year 2026 Homeland Security appropriations bill.

Later today, we will vote on this bill for a second time in 2 months. It shouldn't be necessary. The committee negotiated a full-year bill on a bicameral, bipartisan basis.

Our bill includes reforms like funding for body-worn cameras, negotiated amongst both sides in both Houses, and de-escalation training, something else that we have heard about. Democrats continue to insist on proposals which would prevent the enforcement of immigration law.

It is disappointing that we must cajole our colleagues to support this bipartisan bill once again, but here we are. The Department of Homeland Security has now been shut down for more than 3 weeks, with no apparent end in sight.

Let us just for a second really talk about why we are here. One of the biggest successes of the present administration is what they have done on the border and what they have done in terms of ending unlimited immigration from the previous administration and how they are trying to clean that up. That is a phenomenal sore spot amongst some of my colleagues. You know what, why are we here with this? Why are we ignoring TSA and all this stuff you are going to hear throughout this? We have got Secret Service. We have got FEMA. We have got all of these things going on. We have got the Coast Guard. Why are we ignoring all of those? Because the thing that really upsets them is the success on the number one issue that this administration ran on, which was cleaning up the border.

Now, when you have got some operations in the Twin Cities that are under investigation, it is like here we go. We can fixate on this, or try and take the plumb so far of this administration's accomplishments—and there are many. So here we are, until we get to a point where we can move on to something else and forget, the wall is still being built; there is plenty of money for operations with ICE, and all of those things, but we are doing political stuff. I get it. I understand it. I just don't understand how that gets to the top of the rail when there have been reforms. It has been quiet up in the Twin Cities for a while now. There have been pivots made.

While utility bills, mortgages, car payments, and grocery bills don't stop

coming because the Senate has decided to hold this bill hostage, we sit here and struggle through and hope that people can struggle through in all the other homeland areas that are on hold.

What I would tell you is this: Vote "yes," end the shutdown.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Defense.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill fails to address the dangerous and illegal activities from DHS agents in Minnesota that we have witnessed since Operation Metro Surge began, and they are still going on.

Our neighbors were racially profiled and detained without cause. Peaceful demonstrators were threatened and harassed, and continue to be. American citizens were assaulted and kidnapped from their homes and even killed in our streets.

Democrats are calling for common-sense reforms that protect our communities and our rights. We want ICE and Border Patrol agents to follow the same rules as our local law enforcement: Identify yourself, use your body camera, get a real judicial warrant when you enter a home, and establish a policy clearly for use of force.

When DHS agents engage in illegal or dangerous behavior, we want independent investigations to hold them accountable.

I will not vote for more funding for ICE or CBP until this Congress includes those reforms, period. Republicans should allow a vote on Ranking Member DELAURO's bill that would separate ICE, Border Patrol, and Secretary Noem's office while we negotiate real reforms. It would fund the law-abiding components of DHS, like the Coast Guard, FEMA, and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency, known as CISA.

CISA works to protect our critical infrastructure, our emergency communications, and our election systems. In Minnesota, we learned that the hard way when St. Paul suffered a major cyberattack last summer. It took us weeks to recover.

I am puzzled why Republicans in this bill would cut \$268 million from CISA. We should be increasing money for cybersecurity, not reducing it, and I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

□ 1230

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM), my very good friend.

Mrs. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Today, we are in a battle for the safety and security of every U.S. citizen. Threats against our Nation are at an all-time high. Our adversaries are actively looking for weakness, and we are putting ourselves in harm's way by not carrying out the most basic function of government: protecting the homeland.

This is not a political game. TSA officers are working without pay while protecting our airports. Coastguardsmen are risking their lives at home and are active in the Persian Gulf. FEMA coordinators are operating with limited resources as we get closer to wildfire season. Federal law enforcement is securing our borders against narco-terrorists.

Thanks to Democrat dysfunction, none of these patriots will see their paychecks this month. We already learned this in October. Our homeland security should never be used as a bargaining chip.

I urge my colleagues to choose patriotism over partisanship and fund the Department of Homeland Security immediately.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SUBRAMANYAM).

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I am a little confused why we are still having this shutdown and still having this debate, because House Democrats have been very clear about what we want. We just want no more masked agents and warrantless break-ins.

We also have a bill that would fund the important parts of DHS, like FEMA and like other parts of it. What we don't want is to be funding private planes for the Secretary. What we want is some accountability for ICE and transparency. This is what the American people want.

I want to remind us about who is actually prioritizing safety, because it is this administration that actually fired a lot of people who are cybersecurity experts. We are now in a war where cybersecurity is at the forefront. They fired a lot of people who were in counterterrorism, and now there is a 22-year-old running counterterrorism for our country when we are in a war with a country that specializes in terrorism.

Meanwhile, Secretary Noem has spent millions on personal planes. The American taxpayers want accountability for their tax dollars, and they deserve better.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MACKENZIE), my very good friend.

Mr. MACKENZIE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding the time.

For nearly 3 weeks, key pieces of the Department of Homeland Security have been shut down, and families face uncertainty about their paychecks. This is happening because some in this Chamber are choosing to play politics at a time when the work of DHS staff is urgently needed and despite having negotiated this bipartisan agreement themselves.

Today, some DHS components are operating at limited capacity. Trainings are halted. Long-term planning is paused. Only bare-minimum essential services are being continued. This is not sustainable for our national security.

While some have chosen to politicize this debate by exclusively focusing on ICE, this ignores the fact that DHS is responsible for a wide range of responsibilities that are essential for our national security.

TSA officers stand on the front lines every single day to secure our skies, yet they are working without paychecks.

The Coast Guard could fully execute marine security if they had funding. Search and rescue operations and drug interdiction missions are in jeopardy because, again, of the opposition from the other side.

FEMA's disaster response and recovery efforts are scaled back as severe weather and emergencies approach.

CISA, our Nation's cyber defense agency, is operating at limited capacity during heightened global tensions.

The Secret Service faces constraints in protecting our leaders.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. MACKENZIE. All of this, again, is after the other side voted in a bipartisan way to support this effort initially and then pulled back their support because of politics.

It is despicable what we see happening in our budgeting process here in Congress. We should stand up right now at this time more than ever to protect the American people and protect our homeland by providing this funding.

It is time to put the politics aside. Support the men and women who protect our Nation. Prioritize the safety of the American people. That means ending this shutdown, passing the bill, and fully restoring the operational readiness of the Department of Homeland Security.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman, about who is playing politics, his words are really disingenuous.

Fund my bill. Let's pay these Federal employees. Let's pay them all. That is what they deserve. They are working hard.

If you want to protect the American citizens, protect them from ICE, fund the alternative and pay people who are working hard.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished ranking member of the Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, ICE agents are being paid. Border Patrol agents are being paid. The representation to the American people that somehow we have shut down the agents of ICE is not true. You can correct me if I am wrong, but that is what I am told.

The weeping and gnashing of teeth that I hear from some of my colleagues—Republicans can fund right now through a unanimous consent all the people who they are lamenting are not being paid. You have it in your

power, or the Speaker has it in his power, to agree to a unanimous consent to pass the gentleman's bill.

Everybody that you are wringing your hands about—not you, sir. Mr. Speaker, I speak to you. The hands that are being wrung are totally without merit. We will vote for—and by the way, we did not vote for the Department of Homeland Security on our side. There were seven of us. The rest of us voted “no” because we didn't agree with what the Department of Homeland Security and ICE were doing—not TSA, not Coast Guard, not the other agencies, but ICE and CBP. We don't agree with what they are doing.

What you are doing, Mr. Speaker, on that side of the aisle is to hold everybody else hostage for a bill that we did not vote for. Stop saying we made some deal. Our deal was to separate it out, and we were against it. That was the deal. That is what I did. I voted for all the rest of the bills, as my side did, and I voted against the Department of Homeland Security because we want what they are doing stopped to protect the American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. I say to my friends who keep wringing their hands like Pontius Pilate that somebody is not paying them, the people who are not paying everybody other than CBP and ICE, who are being paid out of a huge fund that they have available to them, are the people that you will not let go.

We are for funding everybody but the two agencies we have mentioned and have a difference of opinion on. Pontius Pilate could not rid himself of the responsibility.

□ 1240

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the Republican bill today has no chance. I have said this before, and I will say it again: It has no chance of becoming law. It failed before, and it will fail again.

On the other hand, my bill to re-fund FEMA, TSA, cybersecurity, the Coast Guard, the Secret Service, and other law-abiding components of the Department of Homeland Security while negotiations continue on ICE and CBP is the most viable path forward. It is the best way to respond to those hard-working Federal employees in those agencies.

If Republicans are serious about funding the vast majority of the Department of Homeland Security as President Trump's open-ended war with Iran puts Americans at risk, then they must bring it up for a vote immediately.

For this reason, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee. If the House rules had permitted, I would have offered the motion with an important amendment to the bill. My amendment would have replaced the text of

the doomed Republican proposal with the text of my bill to fund the parts of the Department of Homeland Security over which there is no disagreement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment in the RECORD immediately prior to the vote on the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

Ms. DELAURO: Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in voting for the motion to recommit, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I advise my friend I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close as well, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot today about the Federal workers who are impacted by this lapse in funding. I have to say I am surprised to hear so many of my Republican colleagues suddenly express such ardent concern for the fate of Federal workers.

Where was this concern when President Trump and Elon Musk decimated the Federal workforce last year?

Where was the concern when they drove away close to 1,000 Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency employees? That is one-third of the staff out of our Nation's leading cybersecurity agency.

Where was the outrage when President Trump proposed slashing funding for that same agency by \$500 million? That was part of the President's budget, and there was not a peep from my Republican colleagues.

Where were they when the Trump administration appointed a 22-year-old intern to head a key Department of Homeland Security's counterterrorism office?

I have no patience for the crocodile tears being shed by anyone who sat by as President Trump and Kristi Noem tried to eliminate FEMA entirely, people who said not a word when the White House hollowed out whole agencies without the consent of the Congress. They were silent when all of these things happened. Now, all of a sudden, they are ardent defenders of cybersecurity and others. It is nothing more, as I said, than political theater.

This kind of selective sympathy often betrays a partisan agenda. If Republicans were serious, then this week we could have funded every agency under the Department of Homeland Security except for ICE and for CBP. I will not vote for another dime for these agencies until we get the reforms that the American people want in stopping these agencies from terrorizing our communities.

By the way, we could have funded every agency under DHS except for ICE and CBP. By the way, my colleagues are sitting on \$140 billion from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. Let's dip into those dollars and pay for these Federal employees.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues: Vote "no" on what is a cynical attempt to extract more funding for lawless agencies because of a crisis that the President has created without an imminent threat.

I call on the Republican leadership to stop blocking my bill to fund the parts of the Department of Homeland Security upon which we all agree, and let's continue negotiating on the parts that we do not agree on.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by thanking my very good friend, the ranking member, for participating in debate and for working with us to get most of the government open.

Quite frankly, I want to—not correct my good friend from Maryland who spoke earlier, but just provide some context. When we were in negotiations over this bill—we are in the majority in each Chamber—we asked the minority what did they need.

My friend, the ranking member, told me what she needed, and we compromised on almost every bill, all but one. She said that this is the form in which I would like to receive it and would maximize the chances of funding most of the government.

She followed her word to the letter, and we got most of those bills through. We actually got all of those bills through because we did it.

By the same token, I asked our friends, the Senate Democrats: What do you need in terms of this to be able to pass the legislation? It doesn't mean you have to agree with everything in it. It is a compromise bill.

So they told us what they needed. They wanted a package, not a separate vote, and they got exactly what they asked for and exactly what they had agreed to. Nobody got everything they wanted, but this is a compromise bill. You give it to us in this form, and we can pass it.

They didn't.

Now, the reality is a majority of each Chamber is in favor of this legislation. They were in favor of the other five bills which, thankfully, were enacted, or we would be in the middle of a complete government shutdown now.

The majority of both Chambers have voted for this bill. This is a case of the minority deciding to hold the majority hostage. No legislative majority is ever going to agree to that. My friends would not agree to that.

I was here when we were debating the repeal of ObamaCare. We adopted a similar strategy to what Senate Democrats are pursuing today, and note I said Senate Democrats. It didn't work. I didn't think it was very smart. We brought whole sections of the government out to reauthorize. We could say exactly what our friends are saying today: Well, gosh, we are not for shutting down the Department of Defense. We are not for this. You should vote for that.

They didn't vote for any of it because they said they weren't going to be blackmailed. They also said that it was nonsensical to pick and choose which of the different agencies and particular departments we would keep open. They were right about that. They are now pursuing exactly what Republicans did and exactly what they condemned so vociferously and, I would say, correctly at the time.

This is legislative blackmail, and the people who are being hurt are the people who have nothing to do with this dispute. They are doing their jobs, the people at FEMA, the people at TSA, elements of the Coast Guard, the civilian elements of the Coast Guard, and the whole range of things I went through in my opening statement. There is simply no justification for it.

There are negotiations going on on these various matters dealing with Homeland Security. Some of them were in the bill. Body cameras are an excellent Democratic suggestion. Nine times out of 10, I think body cameras show the law enforcement official is almost always in the right, but on the 10th time, we certainly want to know when they are not so we can correct that problem. That is a good idea. That was a Democratic suggestion that we incorporated in the bill.

Let's have de-escalation training to lower tension. That is a good idea, and that is in the bill. There were other things we tried to get in the bill that, frankly, probably, ought to be done just by operation that we weren't able to succeed. We have to have a bill that can pass both Chambers and be signed by the President.

Now, government and appropriations, more than any other part, is a give-and-take process, and we negotiated almost everything very openly and honestly. We negotiated this bill openly and honestly. It was Senate Democrats who, after agreeing to one thing—which, by the way, is exactly what happened in the first government shutdown.

We should look at that. How did that end up?

It lasted 43 days. It was the longest government shutdown in history.

Did Democrats achieve any of their objectives? No.

Now, they think they scored political points.

They think it made them more popular, but did they substantively achieve anything? No.

□ 1250

Right now, there are negotiations going on, largely involving the administration and Senate Democrats. That is fine. I understand there are some changes being made there. We ought to allow that process to continue. We should not shut down the government.

This bill is substantially the same—as the chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. AMODEI, said—as what we saw on this floor 2 months ago, but the situation is fundamentally different. We are in even more dangerous times.

We can debate about that ad infinitum, but I don't think we should be debating as to whether our Homeland Security apparatus should be up, paid, operational, vigilant, and alert. This is the time, of all times, that should happen.

I think some of my friends on the other side—not all of them, but some of them—will have changed their minds because circumstances are different. Frankly, we want to give them the opportunity to go ahead and vote that way if they have changed their minds. If they haven't, that is fine. They can go ahead and keep the Department shut down, but it is at odds with everything they have stood for and preached for many, many, many years.

In the end, I don't think it is helpful in moving the country forward or solving problems. I have never favored shutdowns. I have never argued for them. I have always argued against them, whether my party did it—and we have certainly done it—or the other side. The same thing is true now.

Mr. Speaker, I think if we reflect, we should, in a bipartisan way, do what we did 2 months ago and pass this bill. Hopefully, the Senate will have the opportunity to do the same thing.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, Mr. Speaker, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1095, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. DELAULO. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. DeLauro of Connecticut moves to recommit the bill H.R. 7744 to the Committee on Appropriations.

The material previously referred to by Ms. DELAULO is as follows:

Ms. DeLauro of Connecticut moves to recommit the bill H.R. 7744 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the provisions of H.R. 7481, as introduced in the House of Representatives on February 11, 2026.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Ms. DELAULO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MORAN) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

The motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1099;

Adoption of H. Con. Res. 38;

The motion to recommit H.R. 7744; and

Passage of H.R. 7744.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

REAFFIRMING IRAN REMAINS THE LARGEST STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1099) reaffirming Iran remains the largest state sponsor of terrorism, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 372, nays 53, answered “present” 2, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 84]

YEAS—372

Adams	Bentz	Carbajal
Aderholt	Bera	Carey
Aguilar	Bergman	Carter (GA)
Alford	Bice	Carter (LA)
Allen	Biggs (AZ)	Carter (TX)
Amo	Biggs (SC)	Case
Amodei (NV)	Billirakis	Casten
Ansari	Bishop	Castor (FL)
Arrington	Boebert	Cherfilus-
Auchincloss	Bost	McCormick
Babin	Boyle (PA)	Chu
Bacon	Brecheen	Ciscomani
Baird	Bresnahan	Cisneros
Balderson	Brown	Clark (MA)
Balint	Brownley	Cleaver
Barr	Buchanan	Cline
Barragán	Budzinski	Cloud
Barrett	Burchett	Clyburn
Baumgartner	Burlison	Clyde
Bean (FL)	Bynum	Cole
Beatty	Calvert	Collins
Begich	Cammack	Comer
Conaway		
Correa		
Costa		
Courtney		
Craig		
Crane		
Crank		
Crawford		
Crenshaw		
Crockett		
Crow		
Cuellar		
Davids (KS)		
Davidson		
Davis (NC)		
De La Cruz		
Dean (PA)		
DeGette		
DeLauro		
DelBene		
Deluzio		
DeSaulnier		
DesJarlais		
Diaz-Balart		
Dingell		
Donalds		
Downing		
Dunn (FL)		
Edwards		
Elfreth		
Ellzey		
Emmer		
Escobar		
Espallat		
Estes		
Evans (CO)		
Ezell		
Fallon		
Fedorchak		
Feenstra		
Fields		
Figures		
Fine		
Finstad		
Fischbach		
Fitzgerald		
Fitzpatrick		
Fleischmann		
Flood		
Fong		
Foster		
Fox		
Frankel, Lois		
Franklin, Scott		
Friedman		
Fulcher		
Garbarino		
Garcia (TX)		
Gill (TX)		
Gillen		
Gimenez		
Golden (ME)		
Goldman (NY)		
Goldman (TX)		
Gonzalez, V.		
Gooden		
Goodlander		
Gosar		
Gottheimer		
Graves		
Gray		
Griffith		
Grothman		
Guest		
Guthrie		
Hageman		
Hamadeh (AZ)		
Harder (CA)		
Haridopolos		
Harrigan		
Harris (MD)		
Harris (NC)		
Harshbarger		
Hayes		
Higgins (LA)		
Hill (AR)		
Himes		
Hinson		
Horsford		
Houchin		
Houlahan		
Hoyer		
Hudson		
Huizenga		
Hunt		
Hurd (CO)		
Issa		
Ivey		
Jack		
Jackson (IL)		
Jackson (TX)		
James		
Jeffries		
Johnson (LA)		
Johnson (SD)		
Johnson (TX)		
Jordan		
Joyce (OH)		
Joyce (PA)		
Kamlager-Dove		
Kaptur		
Kean		
Keating		
Kelly (MS)		
Kelly (PA)		
Kennedy (NY)		
Kennedy (UT)		
Kiggans (VA)		
Kiley (CA)		
Kim		
Knott		
Kustoff		
LaHood		
LaLota		
Landsman		
Langworthy		
Larsen (WA)		
Larson (CT)		
Latimer		
Latta		
Lawler		
Lee (FL)		
Lee (NV)		
Leger Fernandez		
Letlow		
Levin		
Liccardo		
Lieu		
Loudermilk		
Lucas		
Luna		
Luttrell		
Lynch		
Mace		
Mackenzie		
Magaziner		
Malliotakis		
Maloy		
Mann		
Mannion		
Massie		
Mast		
Matsui		
McBath		
McCaul		
McClain		
McClain Delaney		
McClellan		
McClintock		
McCollum		
McCormick		
McDonald Rivet		
McDowell		
McGuire		
Meeks		
Meng		
Messmer		
Meuser		
Mfume		
Miller (IL)		
Miller (OH)		
Miller (WV)		
Miller-Meeks		
Mills		
Min		
Moolenaar		
Moore (AL)		
Moore (NC)		
Moore (UT)		
Moore (WV)		
Moran		
Morelle		
Morrison		
Moskowitz		
Moulton		
Mrvan		
Mullin		
Murphy		
Nadler		
Neal		
Neguse		
Nehls		
Newhouse		
Norcross		
Norman		
Nunn (IA)		
Obernolte		
Ogles		
Olsewski		
Onder		
Owens		
Pallone		
Palmer		
Panetta		
Pappas		
Patronis		
Pelosi		
Perez		
Perry		
Peters		
Pettersen		
Pfluger		
Pou		
Quigley		
Raskin		
Reschenthaler		
Riley (NY)		
Rogers (AL)		
Rogers (KY)		
Rose		
Ross		
Rouzer		
Roy		
Ruiz		
Rulli		
Rutherford		
Ryan		
Salazar		
Salinas		
Scalise		
Scanlon		
Schmidt		
Schneider		
Scholten		
Schrier		
Schweikert		
Scott (VA)		
Scott, Austin		
Scott, David		
Self		
Sessions		
Sewell		
Sherman		
Shreve		
Simpson		
Smith (MO)		
Smith (NE)		
Smith (NJ)		
Smith (WA)		
Smucker		
Sorensen		
Soto		
Spartz		
Stansbury		
Stanton		
Stauber		
Stefanik		
Steil		
Steube		
Stevens		
Strickland		
Strong		
Stutzman		
Subramanyam		
Suozi		
Swalwell		
Sykes		
Taylor		
Tenney		
Thanedar		
Thompson (CA)		
Thompson (MS)		
Thompson (PA)		

Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Tran
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne

Van Epps
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Vindman
Wagner
Walberg
Walkinshaw
Wasserman
Schultz
Weber (TX)

Webster (FL)
Westerman
Whitesides
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—53

Beyer
Bonamici
Carson
Casar
Castro (TX)
Clarke (NY)
Cohen
Davis (IL)
Dexter
Doggett
Evans (PA)
Fletcher
Foushee
Frost
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva

Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Jacobs
Jayapal
Johnson (GA)
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Krishnamoorthi
Lee (PA)
McBride
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Menefee
Menendez
Moore (WI)
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar

Pingree
Pocan
Pressley
Ramirez
Randall
Rivas
Sánchez
Schakowsky
Simon
Takano
Tlaib
Trahan
Underwood
Velázquez
Waters
Watson Coleman
Williams (GA)

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—2

Garamendi
Lofgren

NOT VOTING—5

Bell
Fry

Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Hern (OK)

□ 1630

Mses. PRESSLEY, WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. COHEN, Ms. FOUSHEE, Messrs. GREEN of Texas, MENENDEZ, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. MENEFE, and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. CRANE and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia changed his vote from “present” to “nay.”

Mr. GARAMENDI changed his vote from “nay” to “present.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DIRECTING THE PRESIDENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 5(c) OF THE WAR POWERS RESOLUTION TO REMOVE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM UNAUTHORIZED HOSTILITIES IN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 38) directing the President pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution to remove United States Armed Forces from unauthorized hostilities in the Islamic Republic of Iran, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the concurrent resolution.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 212, nays 219, not voting 1, as follows:

[Roll No. 85]

YEAS—212

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Ansari
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bell
Bera
Beyer
Bishop
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bynum
Carbajal
Carson
Carter (LA)
Casar
Case
Casten
Castro (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conaway
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dexter
Dingell
Doggett
Elfreth
Escobar
Espallat
Evans (PA)
Fields
Figures
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Friedman
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gillen

Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, V.
Goodlander
Gottheimer
Gray
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy (NY)
Khanna
Krishnamoorthi
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Mannion
Massie
Matsui
McBath
McBride
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McCollum
McDonald Rivet
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Meeks
Menefee
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Min
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez

Olszewski
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Ross
Ruiz
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Simon
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Subramanyam
Suozi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Underwood
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Walkinshaw
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Whitesides
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NAYS—219

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei (NV)
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Barr
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Begich
Bentz
Bergman
Bice

Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Bresnahan
Buchanan
Burchett
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Ciscomani
Cline

Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Edwards

Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Evans (CO)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fine
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foss
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Garbarino
Gill (TX)
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (TX)
Gooden
Gosar
Graves
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Jack
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)

Joyce (PA)
Kean
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (UT)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
Landsman
Langworthy
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Mackenzie
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Mast
McCauley
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McDowell
McGuire
Messmer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Oberholte
Ogles
Onder
Owens

Palmer
Patronis
Perry
Pfluger
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Staubert
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Epps
Van Orden
Vargas
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOT VOTING—1

Gonzales, Tony

□ 1637

So the concurrent resolution was not agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit to the bill (H.R. 7744) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes, offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DeLauro), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 212, nays 217, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 86]

YEAS—212

Adams	Golden (ME)	Omar
Aguilar	Goldman (NY)	Pallone
Amo	Gomez	Panetta
Ansari	Gonzalez, V.	Pappas
Auchincloss	Goodlander	Pelosi
Balint	Gottheimer	Perez
Barragán	Gray	Peters
Beatty	Green, Al (TX)	Pettersen
Bell	Grijalva	Pingree
Bera	Harder (CA)	Pocan
Beyer	Hayes	Pou
Bishop	Himes	Pressley
Bonamici	Horsford	Quigley
Boyle (PA)	Houlihan	Ramirez
Brown	Hoyer	Randall
Brownley	Hoyle (OR)	Raskin
Budzinski	Huffman	Riley (NY)
Bynum	Ivey	Rivas
Carbajal	Jacobs	Ross
Carson	Jeffries	Ruiz
Carter (LA)	Johnson (GA)	Ryan
Casar	Johnson (TX)	Salinas
Case	Kamlager-Dove	Sánchez
Casten	Kaptur	Scanlon
Castor (FL)	Keating	Schakowsky
Castro (TX)	Kelly (IL)	Schneider
Cherfilus-	Kennedy (NY)	Scholten
McCormick	Khanna	Schrier
Chu	Krishnamoorthi	Scott (VA)
Cisneros	Landsman	Scott, David
Clark (MA)	Larsen (WA)	Sewell
Clarke (NY)	Larson (CT)	Sherman
Cleaver	Latimer	Simon
Clyburn	Lee (NV)	Smith (WA)
Cohen	Lee (PA)	Sorensen
Conaway	Leger Fernandez	Soto
Correa	Levin	Stansbury
Costa	Liccardo	Stanton
Courtney	Lieu	Stevens
Craig	Lofgren	Strickland
Crockett	Lynch	Subramanyam
Crow	Magaziner	Suozi
Cuellar	Mannion	Swallow
Davids (KS)	Matsui	Sykes
Davis (IL)	McBath	Takano
Davis (NC)	McBride	Thanedar
Dean (PA)	McClain Delaney	Thompson (CA)
DeGette	McClellan	Thompson (MS)
DeLauro	McCollum	Titus
DelBene	McDonald Rivet	Tlaib
Deluzio	McGarvey	Tokuda
DeSaulnier	McGovern	Tomko
Dexter	McIver	Torres (CA)
Dingell	Meeks	Torres (NY)
Doggett	Menefee	Trahan
Elfreth	Menendez	Tran
Escobar	Meng	Underwood
Espallat	Mfume	Vargas
Evans (PA)	Min	Vasquez
Fields	Moore (WI)	Veasey
Figures	Morelle	Velázquez
Fletcher	Morrison	Vindman
Foster	Moskowitz	Walkinshaw
Foushee	Moulton	Wasserman
Frankel, Lois	Mrvan	Schultz
Friedman	Mullin	Waters
Frost	Nadler	Watson Coleman
Garamendi	Neal	Whitesides
Garcia (CA)	Neguse	Williams (GA)
Garcia (IL)	Norcross	Wilson (FL)
Garcia (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez	
Gillen	Olsewski	

NAYS—217

Aderholt	Brecheen	De La Cruz
Alford	Bresnahan	DesJarlais
Allen	Buchanan	Diaz-Balart
Amodei (NV)	Burchett	Donalds
Arrington	Burlison	Downing
Babin	Calvert	Dunn (FL)
Bacon	Cammack	Edwards
Baird	Carey	Ellzey
Balderson	Carter (GA)	Emmer
Barr	Carter (TX)	Estes
Barrett	Ciscomani	Evans (CO)
Baumgartner	Cline	Ezell
Bean (FL)	Cloud	Fallon
Begich	Clyde	Fedorchak
Bentz	Cole	Feenstra
Bergman	Collins	Fine
Bice	Comer	Finstad
Biggs (AZ)	Crane	Fischbach
Biggs (SC)	Crank	Fitzgerald
Bilirakis	Crawford	Fitzpatrick
Boebert	Crenshaw	Fleischmann
Bost	Davidson	Flood

Fong	LaLota	Rogers (KY)
Foxx	Langworthy	Rose
Franklin, Scott	Latta	Rouzer
Fry	Lawler	Roy
Fulcher	Lee (FL)	Rulli
Garbarino	Letlow	Rutherford
Gill (TX)	Loudermilk	Salazar
Gimenez	Lucas	Scalise
Goldman (TX)	Luna	Schmidt
Gooden	Luttrell	Schweikert
Gosar	Mace	Scott, Austin
Graves	Mackenzie	Self
Griffith	Malliotakis	Sessions
Grothman	Maloy	Shreve
Guest	Mann	Simpson
Guthrie	Massie	Smith (MO)
Hageman	Mast	Smith (NE)
Hamadeh (AZ)	McCaul	Smith (NJ)
Haridopolos	McClain	Smucker
Harrigan	McClintock	Spartz
Harris (MD)	McCormick	Staubert
Harris (NC)	McDowell	Stefanik
Harshbarger	McGuire	Steil
Hern (OK)	Messmer	Steube
Hill (AR)	Meuser	Strong
Hinson	Miller (IL)	Stutzman
Houchin	Miller (OH)	Taylor
Hudson	Miller (WV)	Tenney
Huizenga	Miller-Meeks	Thompson (PA)
Hunt	Mills	Tiffany
Hurd (CO)	Moolenaar	Timmons
Issa	Moore (AL)	Turner (OH)
Jack	Moore (NC)	Valadao
Jackson (TX)	Moore (UT)	Van Drew
James	Moore (WV)	Van Dwyne
Jayapal	Moran	Van Epps
Johnson (LA)	Murphy	Van Orden
Johnson (SD)	Nehls	Wagner
Jordan	Newhouse	Walberg
Joyce (OH)	Norman	Weber (TX)
Joyce (PA)	Nunn (IA)	Webster (FL)
Kean	Oberholte	Westerman
Kelly (MS)	Ogles	Wied
Kelly (PA)	Onder	Williams (TX)
Kennedy (UT)	Owens	Wilson (SC)
Kigga (VA)	Palmer	Wittman
Kiley (CA)	Patronis	Womack
Kim	Perry	Yakym
Knott	Pfuger	Zinke
Kustoff	Reschenthaler	
LaHood	Rogers (AL)	

NOT VOTING—3

Gonzales, Tony	Higgins (LA)	Jackson (IL)
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□ 1644

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, today, I mistakenly voted NAY on Roll Call No. 86, on Motion to Recommit on H.R. 7744, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 86.

Stated against:

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 86.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 221, nays 209, not voting 2, as follows:

[Roll No. 87]

YEAS—221

Aderholt	Barrett	Boebert
Alford	Baumgartner	Bost
Allen	Bean (FL)	Brecheen
Amodei (NV)	Begich	Bresnahan
Arrington	Bentz	Buchanan
Babin	Bergman	Burchett
Bacon	Bice	Burlison
Baird	Biggs (AZ)	Calvert
Balderson	Biggs (SC)	Cammack
Barr	Bilirakis	Carey

Carter (GA)	Hill (AR)	Newhouse
Carter (TX)	Hinson	Norman
Ciscomani	Houchin	Nunn (IA)
Cline	Hudson	Oberholte
Cloud	Huizenga	Ogles
Clyde	Hunt	Onder
Cole	Hurd (CO)	Owens
Collins	Issa	Palmer
Comer	Jack	Patronis
Crane	Jackson (TX)	Perez
Crank	James	Perry
Crawford	Johnson (LA)	Pfuger
Crenshaw	Johnson (SD)	Reschenthaler
Cuellar	Jordan	Rogers (AL)
Davidson	Joyce (OH)	Rogers (KY)
Davis (NC)	Joyce (PA)	Rose
De La Cruz	Kean	Rouzer
DesJarlais	Kelly (MS)	
Diaz-Balart	Kelly (PA)	Rulli
Donalds	Kennedy (UT)	Rutherford
Downing	Kigga (VA)	Salazar
Dunn (FL)	Kiley (CA)	Scalise
Edwards	Kim	Schmidt
Ellzey	Knott	Schweikert
Emmer	Kustoff	Scott, Austin
Estes	LaHood	Self
Evans (CO)	LaLota	Sessions
Ezell	Langworthy	Shreve
Fallon	Latta	Simpson
Fedorchak	Lawler	Smith (MO)
Feenstra	Lee (FL)	Smith (NE)
Fine	Letlow	Smith (NJ)
Finstad	Loudermilk	Smucker
Fischbach	Lucas	Spartz
Fitzgerald	Luna	Staubert
Fitzpatrick	Luttrell	Stefanik
Fleischmann	Mace	Steil
Flood	Mackenzie	Steube
Fong	Malliotakis	Strong
Foxx	Maloy	Stutzman
Franklin, Scott	Mann	Taylor
Fry	Massie	Tenney
Fulcher	Mast	Thompson (PA)
Garbarino	McCaul	Tiffany
Gill (TX)	McClain	Timmons
Gimenez	McClintock	Turner (OH)
Golden (ME)	McCormick	Valadao
Goldman (TX)	McDowell	Van Drew
Gooden	McGuire	Van Dwyne
Gosar	Messmer	Van Epps
Graves	Meuser	Van Orden
Griffith	Miller (IL)	Wagner
Grothman	Miller (OH)	Walberg
Guest	Miller (WV)	Weber (TX)
Guthrie	Miller-Meeks	Webster (FL)
Hageman	Mills	Westerman
Hamadeh (AZ)	Moolenaar	Wied
Haridopolos	Moore (AL)	Williams (TX)
Harrigan	Moore (NC)	Wilson (SC)
Harris (MD)	Moore (UT)	Wittman
Harris (NC)	Moore (WV)	Womack
Harshbarger	Moran	Yakym
Hern (OK)	Murphy	Zinke
Higgins (LA)	Nehls	

NAYS—209

Adams	Clyburn	Garcia (CA)
Aguilar	Cohen	Garcia (IL)
Amo	Conaway	Garcia (TX)
Ansari	Correa	Gillen
Auchincloss	Costa	Goldman (NY)
Balint	Courtney	Gomez
Barragán	Craig	Gonzalez, V.
Beatty	Crockett	Goodlander
Bell	Crow	Gottheimer
Bera	Davids (KS)	Gray
Beyer	Davis (IL)	Green, Al (TX)
Bishop	Dean (PA)	Grijalva
Bonamici	DeGette	Harder (CA)
Boyle (PA)	DeLauro	Hayes
Brown	DelBene	Himes
Brownley	Deluzio	Horsford
Budzinski	DeSaulnier	Houlihan
Bynum	Dexter	Hoyer
Carbajal	Dingell	Hoyle (OR)
Carson	Doggett	Huffman
Carter (LA)	Elfreth	Ivey
Casar	Escobar	Jacobs
Case	Espallat	Jayapal
Casten	Evans (PA)	Jeffries
Castor (FL)	Fields	Johnson (GA)
Castro (TX)	Figures	Johnson (TX)
Cherfilus-	Fletcher	Kamlager-Dove
McCormick	Foster	Kaptur
Chu	Foushee	Keating
Cisneros	Frankel, Lois	Kelly (IL)
Clark (MA)	Friedman	Kennedy (NY)
Clarke (NY)	Frost	Khanna
Cleaver	Garamendi	Krishnamoorthi

Landsman	Neal	Sorensen
Larsen (WA)	Neguse	Soto
Larson (CT)	Norcross	Stansbury
Latimer	Ocasio-Cortez	Stanton
Lee (NV)	Olshewski	Stevens
Lee (PA)	Omar	Strickland
Leger Fernandez	Pallone	Subramanyam
Levin	Panetta	Suozi
Liccardo	Pappas	Swalwell
Lieu	Pelosi	Sykes
Lofgren	Peters	Takano
Lynch	Pettersen	Thanedar
Magaziner	Pingree	Thompson (CA)
Mannion	Pocan	Thompson (MS)
Matsui	Pou	Titus
McBath	Pressley	Tlaib
McBride	Quigley	Tokuda
McClain Delaney	Ramirez	Tonko
McClellan	Randall	Torres (CA)
McCollum	Raskin	Torres (NY)
McDonald Rivet	Riley (NY)	Trahan
McGarvey	Rivas	Tran
McGovern	Ross	Underwood
McIver	Ruiz	Vargas
Meeks	Ryan	Vasquez
Menefee	Salinas	Veasey
Menendez	Sánchez	Velázquez
Meng	Scanlon	Vindman
Mfume	Schakowsky	Walkinshaw
Min	Schneider	Wasserman
Moore (WI)	Scholten	Schultz
Morelle	Schrier	Waters
Morrison	Scott (VA)	Watson Coleman
Moskowitz	Scott, David	Whitesides
Moulton	Sewell	Williams (GA)
Mrvan	Sherman	Wilson (FL)
Mullin	Simon	
Nadler	Smith (WA)	

NOT VOTING—2

Gonzales, Tony Jackson (IL)

□ 1650

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTION IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 6392, HOME SCHOOL GRADUATION RECOGNITION ACT

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, in the engrossment of H.R. 6392, the Clerk be directed to make the correction I have placed at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the change.

The Clerk read as follows:

On page 3, line 15, strike "this Act" and insert "this title".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 7744, FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, in the engrossment of H.R. 7744, the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in spelling, punctuation, section numbering and cross-referencing, and the insertion of appropriate headings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 537

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 537, INCREASE Housing Affordability Act, a bill originally introduced by Representative SHERILL of New Jersey, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Rhode Island?

There was no objection.

HONORING RICHARD "DICK" OTTINGER

(Mr. LATIMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, for nearly two decades, Westchester's own Richard "Dick" Ottinger walked in these Halls as a Congressman and served in this Chamber, representing his neighbors with insight and energy.

Dick Ottinger was first elected to the House in 1964. He left to seek a seat in the United States Senate in 1970 but returned here in 1974 to serve 10 more years. He was an early leader on environmental issues before they became commonplace, and his advocacy for the cleanup of the Hudson River benefited generations to follow.

In his post-congressional years, he turned to teaching as a professor at Pace University School of Law, with a building being named in his honor.

We lost Dick Ottinger on February 16, and he joins in our memories the great House Members from New York who we have recently lost, Charlie Rangel and Nita Lowey.

Dick, like them, is a role model for all of us who serve here today.

Please join me in a moment of silence to honor him.

HONORING OUR FALLEN HEROES

(Mr. NUNN of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor six Americans, including two Iowans, who gave their lives for our country.

On March 1, an Iranian drone struck a U.S. Army command center in Kuwait and killed six members of the 103rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command in the Army Reserve, which operates out of Fort Des Moines, Iowa, in my district.

I will speak first about these two young Hawkeyes. Sergeant Declan Coady of West Des Moines was only 20 years old. He was one of the youngest men in his unit and, by every account, one of the best.

Sergeant Coady trained as an IT specialist with the Army Reserves while studying cybersecurity at my alma mater, Drake University, right here in Des Moines. He was taking classes online from Kuwait while he defended our country in order to become an officer in the U.S. Army.

Last week, he proudly told his father that he had been recommended for promotion from specialist to sergeant. I am happy to say that he posthumously achieved that very honorable rank.

With him was Major Jeffrey O'Brien, 45, of Waukee and Indianola, Iowa, a senior officer in the same unit who spent decades in service. He gave his life keeping our forces in Kuwait safe and Americans at home guarded.

I will say the name of every one of our fallen because every family represented here today, amongst my colleagues from each State where they grew, lived, and served, deserves to be honored by this Nation in our moment of national heartbreak.

Sergeant First Class Nicole Amor, 39, of White Bear Lake, Minnesota.

Captain Cody Khork, 35, of Winter Haven, Florida.

Sergeant First Class Noah Tietjens, 42, of Bellevue, Nebraska.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Marzan, 54, of Sacramento, California.

Out of grief, we renew our resolve. Out of loss, we strengthen our unity, and out of sacrifice, we carry forward an obligation to the families, to the survivors, to our Nation, and to every man and woman still standing the post today.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that the House now observe a moment of silence in honor of our fallen.

CALLING OUT ANTI-SEMITISM

(Mr. FINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FINE. Mr. Speaker, it is easy to criticize anti-Semitism when it happens on the other side. It is more difficult to address it when it happens on your own.

It was not enough for Tucker Carlson to, a few days ago, say that every Jew should have to do a DNA test to prove that they were Jewish. It was not enough for him to say that a terrorist should be able to kill us if they are under 18 years old.

Yet, yesterday, Tucker Carlson attacked perhaps the best and the most good group of Jews who are out there, a group of people who see their job to evangelize not other Jews but Jews themselves, Chabad—a group that no one ever has anything bad to say about because they care about everyone.

I wear a kippah from UF Chabad today in honor of them.

We have a cancer in this country. It is anti-Semitism, and Tucker Carlson represents it. He is many things, but one thing President Trump and I agree on is that he is certainly not MAGA.

□ 1700

HONORING THOSE KILLED IN IRAN

(Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, President Trump has launched us into a war of choice with Iran, with no clear explanation. Yet we know some of the consequences. Six U.S. servicemembers have been killed, dozens injured. More than 40,000 of our troops, including hundreds of Pennsylvanians, are at risk. Thousands of American citizens are stranded.

I do not mourn the loss of Ayatollah Khamenei. Yet I am greatly concerned about the danger and destruction that Mr. Trump has unleashed in the Middle East.

Abraham Lincoln wrote that our Founders resolved to so frame the Constitution that no one man should hold the power to bring oppression of war upon our Nation.

That power lies with Congress because we are closest to the people, and it is why I voted today in favor of the War Powers Resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I lift the names of our fallen soldiers. Just as our colleagues did a moment ago, I lift their names in prayer: Captain Cody Khork, Sergeant First Class Nicole Amor, Sergeant First Class Noah Tietjens, Sergeant Declan Coady, Major Jeffrey O'Brien, and Chief Warrant Officer Robert Marzan.

God bless them, and God bless their families.

CELEBRATING EZRA AND CLEO TEETERS

(Mr. TAYLOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ezra and Cleo Teeters from Waverly, Ohio. Ezra and Cleo represent an extraordinary love story that spans more than eight decades.

Ezra and Cleo met as children, growing up in the same neighborhood and sharing the same bus ride. Their life has been full of love and amazing memories as together they have one son, two grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Their marriage began in the middle of a snowstorm. During the Christmas season of 1945, when Ezra was on leave from his service in the Army in World War II, Ezra and Cleo drove across the Ohio border into Kentucky to get married at the age of 19. Ezra and Cleo kept this secret, telling everyone they were going Christmas shopping, but really they were going to get married.

This year, both Ezra and Cleo will celebrate their 100th birthdays. I wish them continued health and congratulate them on their amazing life that they have shared together over the past eight decades.

RECOGNIZING DEANNA LEWIS

(Mrs. GRIJALVA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, as we begin Women's History Month, I rise to recognize a true leader from southern Arizona, Deanna Lewis.

In 1984, Deanna became the first woman and the first Black woman to serve in the Tucson Fire Department. In a profession where few women had previously worked, she stepped forward anyway, not to make history but to protect and care for her community.

Over a 20-year career in the fire departments of both Tucson and Tubac, Deanna demonstrated strength, integrity, and a deep commitment to southern Arizona families. Because of her, more women now see themselves in uniform, in leadership, and in public service.

This Women's History Month, we honor Deanna Lewis for her trailblazing leadership and recommit ourselves to building a future where every young woman, whether she dreams of fighting fires or serving in the Halls of Congress, knows there is a place for her.

RECOGNIZING JEN WOMACK

(Ms. HAGEMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jen Womack of Newcastle, Wyoming, for being named the 2025 Person of the Year by the Newsletter Journal.

Jen has long been a cornerstone of both her Newcastle community and our State. People may know her name from her time diligently reporting for the Wyoming Livestock Roundup, the extensive work she has done to document history in both Converse County and the history of the origins of the Pathfinder Ranch, or from the impacts she made on so many of our young people during her time leading the Wyoming FFA Foundation.

She has now opened three thriving businesses on Main Street in Newcastle and has established a community support fund called the Sunshine Fund.

Jen is like a rising tide who lifts her community and her neighbors. She represents all that is great about the Cowboy State and truly embodies the tight-knit community spirit found across Wyoming.

Please join me in recognizing and celebrating the accomplishments of Newcastle, Wyoming's Jen Womack.

COSTS OF THE WAR IN IRAN

(Mr. VINDMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, much has been said about the President's war

in Iran. He has not made the case clear to the American people about what he is looking to achieve.

Regime change from the air may be unlikely and may result in a more extreme, hostile, and dangerous regime than existed before. All of that is true, but what is truly unacceptable is the cost, both in American blood and American treasure.

We don't know yet the cost of the war but by some estimates it could cost as much as \$1 billion a day. The President has said 4 to 6 weeks, and that translates to \$28 to \$42 billion. I have heard even more alarming reports from senior DOD officials earlier today. That money won't be spent on lowering working Americans' grocery bills, prescription drugs, and gas at the pump.

The most terrifying cost is the six Americans who have been killed, including one who is a constituent that lived in Spotsylvania, Virginia.

Yesterday, the Secretary of Defense said it is "tragic news" that is reported because the press only wants to make the President look bad. That is outrageous and beyond the pale. This is not about the President. It is not about the Secretary. It is about the servicemembers.

The American people are deeply concerned about our sons and daughters dying in a war that just 27 percent support.

REMEMBERING LOU HOLTZ

(Mr. STUTZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of legendary college football coach Lou Holtz, who passed away this week at the age of 89.

Over a truly remarkable 33-year coaching career, Coach Holtz won 249 games at football programs across the country.

Most of all, Coach Holtz is best remembered for restoring Notre Dame football to greatness. In 1988, he guided the Fighting Irish to a perfect 12-0 season and a national championship, cementing his place among the greatest leaders in the history of college football.

Coach Holtz's legacy goes far beyond wins and championships. He was known for his faith, his commitment to protecting life, and his ability to inspire young men to strive for excellence on and off the field. He was also an honorary trustee at Trine University in my district.

From humble beginnings in West Virginia to the College Football Hall of Fame, Lou Holtz embodied perseverance, discipline, and leadership.

Today, we remember a legendary coach who shaped the game of college football and the lives of countless players. May he rest in peace.

□ 1710

CURB PRESIDENT TRUMP'S USE OF MILITARY FORCE IN IRAN

(Ms. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with grave concerns about President Trump's unwarranted and unconstitutional war of choice on Iran.

Only Congress has the authority to declare war. The President does not have the power to send our Nation to war unilaterally.

We are now in an escalating conflict that the American people do not want and that Congress did not authorize.

Senior Trump administration officials have failed to provide significant evidence of an imminent threat to justify this attack, and there is no consensus on when it will end.

What is their plan to prevent further loss of American servicemembers? What will stop our country from being pulled into another protracted conflict in the Middle East? How much will it cost?

This is why I just voted for a War Powers Resolution to curb President Trump's use of military force in Iran and protect American lives.

RECOGNIZING PIKES PEAK INTERNATIONAL HILL CLIMB

(Mr. CRANK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true gem of the Colorado Springs region, the Pikes Peak International Hill Climb, otherwise known around the world as the Race to the Clouds.

Founded by entrepreneur and philanthropist Spencer Penrose over 100 years ago, it has grown exponentially since its beginning.

Being the second-oldest auto race in America and one of the most iconic motorsports events, many racing legends have pushed the limits of their automobiles to take on the hill climb. The course includes 156 turns to the top of America's Mountain and a finishing elevation of 14,115 feet above sea level.

Even today, it draws competitors, media, and fans from around the world, highlighting Colorado Springs as a premier destination for outdoor recreation, innovation, and international sport.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in celebrating 104 years of remarkable tradition at Pikes Peak.

HONORING ED FELIEN

(Ms. OMAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the remarkable career and ac-

complishments of Minneapolis journalist Ed Felien, founder and editor of Southside Pride.

For over 55 years, Mr. Felien worked to encourage civic debate and uplift local voices through community news.

After working as a journalist, college professor, and a Minneapolis city councilmember, Ed started Southside Pride in 1991, a free monthly newspaper publishing community news for the Phillips, Powderhorn, Riverside, and Seward neighborhoods.

For 35 years, Ed and his team have kept Southsiders informed with reliable and informative news covering a breadth of topics, from local events to international conflicts.

While we will miss the reporting, we congratulate Ed and the staff of Southside Pride on their journalistic accomplishments and wish Ed well in his retirement.

CONGRATULATING HANNAH BILKA

(Ms. VAN DUYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate north Texan Hannah Bilka of the U.S. Women's Hockey Team for winning gold at the 2026 Milan Olympics.

Hannah grew up in Coppell, Texas, where she began skating with local hockey clubs at a young age. She graduated from Coppell Middle School North and completed ninth grade at New Tech High School before moving to pursue more opportunities in competitive hockey.

At just 24 years old, Hannah competed on the world stage against rival Team Canada in the Olympic final. Her talent and sportsmanship were on full display this year in Milan, where she scored four goals over seven games and helped lead Team USA throughout the tournament and on to a gold medal victory.

Her journey from local rinks in north Texas to Olympic champion is inspiring to many young Olympians and many young athletes across the Lone Star State.

I thank Hannah for representing north Texas and the United States in such an incredible way.

STRENGTHENING GUARDRAILS OF OUR DEMOCRACY

(Mr. LATIMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, the guarantee of free and fair elections is the very bedrock of our democracy. However, from the moment this term began, he has made every effort to subvert the electoral process for political gain. We continue to hear the big lie about the 2020 election and pressure lawmakers across the country to redraw congressional districts for polit-

ical purposes. We saw insurrectionists pardoned.

Most recently, he has called for the party to nationalize voting in the United States. That is why, this week, I introduced the POINT Act, because our elections must remain insulated from bad-faith actors who seek to undermine the will of the voters.

This bill would prohibit the President and senior members of his administration from knowingly engaging in election interference or using Federal resources to interfere with an election. It prohibits: the deployment of our military and Federal officers, if such is likely to disrupt an election; postal confiscation of all mail ballots; and ICE or National Guard from looming at the polls.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that we strengthen the guardrails of our democracy against anyone who seeks to abuse power for political gain.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE PATRICK M. SHEPHERD

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judge Patrick Shepherd for his recent appointment to the State Court of Spalding County, filling a vacancy created by Georgia State H.B. 798.

Previously, Judge Shepherd served as solicitor general of Spalding County, where he prosecuted misdemeanor cases in the Spalding County State Court.

Judge Shepherd was also a partner in the Shepherd Law Offices, where he practiced with his father. He represented clients in civil litigation, criminal defense, personal injury, and estate matters.

He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Georgia—go Dawgs—in 2005 and his juris doctorate from Mercer University School of Law in 2009.

Judge Shepherd is a lifelong resident of Spalding County with deep ties to the community through the Spalding County Bar Association, the First Baptist Church, and the Griffin Exchange Club.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Shepherd and his wife, Robin, have two daughters and live in Griffin, Georgia.

REMEMBERING ALBERTO GUTIERREZ REYES

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, Alberto Gutierrez Reyes died at ICE's Adelanto holding facility recently, allegedly because of a lack of access to medical care for chronic conditions.

I visited this facility just weeks ago and was prevented from speaking with

the detainees to verify the claims made by ICE staff that they were adequately taking care of the detainees' medical issues. This is despite the law and courts clearly giving Members of Congress explicit oversight authorities.

I will be returning to Adelanto and demanding answers from the agency that has billions of dollars to protect the homeland but could not provide basic medical care for someone who was in their custody.

Until there's justice for Alberto's family and the other families impacted by ICE's brutality and recklessness, I will be voting "no" on any new funding for ICE or CBP.

□ 1720

IMMIGRATION CONCERNS

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Obviously, the Department of Homeland Security has been in the paper a lot lately.

I want to remind people of these facts:

We are already letting in about 800,000 people every year legally in this country, which is at an all-time high by a mile. One-sixth of the people in this country are born in another country, which is also at an all-time high. We are already letting in one-half million people every year on work visas. Perhaps that should be higher, but you add up these final last three numbers, Mr. Speaker, and it tells us we are not in desperate need of letting more people in this country.

There are people who only want to kick out people who have a criminal record. First of all, it would be very unfair to the people who obeyed the law to come here.

Secondly, it means we may be letting in hardworking people, but people who don't share our values.

Third, it means we are driving up housing costs.

Fourth, it means America will become more crowded. I am old enough to remember when all good environmentalists did not want a lot of immigrants here because they wanted a more natural state.

In any event, these are things we should remember when discussing immigration.

CONGRATULATING CHARLIE MCAVOY

(Ms. GILLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GILLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Charlie McAvoy, a proud native of Long Beach and New York-4 on representing the United States at the 2026 Winter Olympics and bringing home a gold medal as a member of the men's ice hockey team.

Charlie's journey from local rinks to the very top of the Olympic podium is

a very powerful testament to his talent, dedication, and discipline. His success stands as a model for aspiring athletes not only across Long Island but across our country.

Charlie's story sends a clear and inspiring message: Greatness can grow from our neighborhoods, our schools, and our hometown arenas. With hard work, resilience, and belief in yourself, Mr. Speaker, dreams that begin at home can carry you to the highest stages in the world.

On behalf of Long Island, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to Charlie and his family. We thank him for representing our community and our country.

May his achievement remain a source of pride for Long Islanders and an inspiration for generations to come.

HONORING THE LATE CONGRESSMAN SYLVESTER TURNER

(Mr. MENEFEER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MENEFEER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for my first time addressing the House to honor my predecessor, the late, great Sylvester Turner.

Our Congressman was a Houstonian through and through. He was a public servant who served with honor and integrity. He was a father and a grandfather.

He was the mayor of our phenomenal city. During his time as mayor, he led us through multiple natural disasters. He ensured that we had diversity and access to our government, and he fought for voting rights.

The late Congressman left big shoes to fill, but I intend to fill them, and I know my colleagues on the Democratic side will do so as well by fighting for voting rights legislation that ensures that every single person has fair access to the ballot box.

Today, I am here to honor our late Congressman Sylvester Turner. May we fight for voting rights.

CELEBRATING PULASKI DAY

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate General Casimir Pulaski Day, which took place earlier this week. It honors his enduring legacy of service to our Nation when it was very young. He was a native son of Poland, and he became a hero in the American Revolution.

General Pulaski brought to our shores an unshakeable love of liberty and military courage. On the battlefields of our Revolution, Pulaski's strategic brilliance and bravery helped forge what would become the American cavalry. He shed his blood for a nation not yet his own, proving that the cause of liberty knows no borders.

We are proud to honor the deep bonds between the United States and Poland. It is an alliance rooted in shared sacrifice and shared democratic values.

My fellow co-chairs of the Congressional Poland Caucus and other Members of this Chamber have introduced a resolution honoring 250 years of Polish-America relations.

May Pulaski's timeless example continue to inspire us to defend freedom wherever it is threatened and to remain steadfast partners in its cause.

Onward together for your freedom and ours.

UNAUTHORIZED WAR IS RECKLESS

(Mr. AMO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, Rhode Islanders are struggling with Trump's affordability crisis. Yet instead of focusing on the needs of the American people, Trump started a war of choice with Iran.

Now six American servicemembers are dead, thousands of Americans are stranded, and the risk of a wider war is growing, all while spending \$1 billion a day of your taxpayer dollars, Mr. Speaker.

Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon, and the Iranian people deserve self-determination. However, starting a war without a vote in Congress is not a strategy. It is reckless.

Trump has offered no clear objective, no day-after plan or endgame, and our Constitution is clear: Congress decides when we go to war.

I have voted yes on the War Powers Resolution to stop Trump from further destabilizing the Middle East, to prevent more casualties, and to stop this madness.

One man should not be able to drag America into another foreign war, and we must keep fighting to stop these actions that are leaving Americans and the world less safe at a major cost to all of us.

CHAMPION OF THE WEEK: WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT OF THE AKRON AREA

(Mrs. SYKES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2026 Women's History Project Woman of the Year Awards as Ohio's 13th Congressional Districts' Champion of the Week.

This month, the Women's History Project committee will honor eight women from Summit County for their contributions to the community, aligning with the 2026 theme of Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future.

One of these inspiring women is Khatonia Ford, a constituent advocate

in my Akron office. She is receiving the Woman to Watch award, which is given to a woman under the age of 30 who has already shown potential for making lasting contributions to her community, State, or country. Trust me, Mr. Speaker, she is more than deserving.

Our award recipients include: Sarah Abood, who will receive the Initiative Award; Laura Davis, who will receive the Perseverance Award; Lillie Jackson, who will receive the Pioneer Award; Lois Matney, who will receive the Inspiration Award; Miriam Ray, who will receive the Imagination Award; Kathy Ress, who will receive the Faith Award; and Jane Startzman, who will receive the Creativity Award.

I thank these phenomenal women for leading the way and for providing such an impressive example. It is everyday citizens doing remarkable things who help make our community the birthplace of champions.

Recipients of the 2026 Women's History Project Woman of the Year Awards are certainly champions in their own right and have made Summit County and Ohio's 13th Congressional District proud.

END THE WAR IN IRAN

(Ms. PRESSLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the grieving families of the servicemembers killed. I rise on behalf of the little girls in Iran killed by bombs raining down on their schools.

Constituents in my district are horrified to see the United States and Israel launch a war with Iran that has already spread to a dozen more countries. Parents are clutching their young sons as they remember stories from their grandparents about the boys sacrificed to the draft. They see the baby girls in Iran, their small bodies decimated, as their own daughters.

Mr. Speaker, I implore my colleagues, when a nation loses care and concern for children, all the children, a nation becomes irredeemable. The children of the world are all of ours always.

Small men wage endless wars because they are looking to profit. They believe their privilege and connections will shelter their own children from the frontline horrors of war, but our destinies are tied, Mr. Speaker. We rise and fall together.

Trump has no plan of how many lives will be sacrificed before it is enough. We will not tolerate his callous disregard for human life. End this war now.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: INTRODUCING ALYSA LIU

(Ms. SIMON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SIMON. Mr. Speaker, this is Women's History Month, and I rise to introduce my constituent of the week. Her name is Alysa Liu. She is 20 years old, and she was raised in Oakland, educated in Oakland, and trained in Oakland.

Two weeks ago in Milan, Alysa brought home two Olympic gold medals to the United States of America. She is the first American woman on the top of that podium in 24 years. She walked away from skating at 16 and came back on her own terms.

Her father fled China after Tiananmen Square, arrived in Oakland with nothing, worked his way through law school, and has raised five children on his own. He brought her to the ice at just 5 years old, and she took it from there.

Watch her skate, and you see something extremely rare, Mr. Speaker, not just excellence but joy and clarity. She is a young woman so completely herself. An Olympic arena becomes a place of joy and freedom. That is an American hero, not despite where she came from but because of it.

Oakland is proud, and we honor Alysa Liu today.

□ 1730

ISSUES OF THE DAY

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. GREEN of Texas was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise. And still I rise. I rise today, Mr. Speaker, a liberated, unbought, unbossed, unafraid Democrat. I rise, Mr. Speaker, after having been censured but not silenced. Censured, but not silenced.

Yes, I am that person who chooses to take on some of the great social injustices of our time. There are times when taking on these injustices necessitates that we take action right here in this Chamber. I am proud of the things that I have done to call to the attention not only of the Congress, not only of this country, but to the attention of the world some of the injustices taking place in my country. Quite frankly, it is the country that I love because of what it stands for in its great documents, liberty and justice for all, as told in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Yes, I sometimes have to take difficult positions. When I do, I sometimes have to face difficult consequences, but I do so, and still I rise, Mr. Speaker. And still I rise.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I rise to address corruption within the Trump administration, corruption within the Trump family, corruption within Trump politics. I want to show how this corruption is encroaching upon something that is very sacred in this institution.

Let me start now, Mr. Speaker, with corruption within the Trump family. Mr. Speaker, I had the preeminent privilege of being a part of a hearing

today in Financial Services. This hearing had to do with fraud, fraud being perpetrated.

Well, I want to talk about the corruption being perpetrated. I spoke about this at the hearing today, and I shall revisit some of these things that I called to the attention of the public at the hearing today.

The first is a news article. It is styled "Trump meme coin down 96 percent as bitcoin and meme coins slide." This is the \$TRUMP memecoin. This article is dated February 9, 2026, and I shall read excerpts.

It reads in part this: "Last February, the coin's market capitalization stood at \$3.5 billion"—we are talking about now the \$TRUMP memecoin, \$3.5 billion—"already well below its \$14.5 billion peak on the eve of his second inauguration."

When the Trump administration took on the task of being President again—which I regret occurred, to be quite candid with you, but when it did, it also, at the same time, by and through Trump the person, introduced a memecoin. That memecoin stood capitalized at \$3.5 billion.

Well, this is \$14.5 billion at its peak. It was \$3.5 billion later. At its peak, it was \$14.5. "Today, it has fallen to \$1.78 billion." To repeat, so as to allow people to completely understand, initially it was capitalized at \$3.5 billion. It then made an upward move to \$14.5 billion. This was at its peak. Today, this is following February 9, it fell to \$1.78 billion.

Why is this important? Why is it important for me to call this article to your attention? It is because there is something called pump and dump, pump and dump. This is where clever people will create something such as a memecoin, and they will instantly start to put money into it, but they use famous people.

In using these famous people, this name identification in and of itself brings credibility to the product that they are placing in the market. That credibility causes the product to move rapidly in its value. It goes up. As it goes up, the people who are pumping it, they then find reason at some point to take out their profits. They take out their profits.

They pump it, and then they dump it, meaning they get rid of the product. They no longer want it. When they dump it at its zenith, they take out great profits. They make not only millions, but billions. They remove the profits.

Let me read on: The indication is there was "a large-scale pump-and-dump scheme involving at least 15 cryptocurrencies, including \$MELANIA."

That is the currency of the President's wife, whom I have great respect for, by the way. I really do. I have met her and found her to be a very pleasant lady, but I have observed her from afar, and I have great respect for her.

"The complaint alleged that First Lady Melania Trump was used as a

“window dressing for a crime engineered by” other persons. But the point is this: It was engineered by other persons, but the Trump family made large sums of money as a result.

In fact, I have a second article that is styled “Melania Trump’s meme coin architects accused of pump-and-dump fraud in lawsuit.” This one is dated October 23, 2025, and it is from *The Guardian*.

I would beg that people would peruse these at their leisure so that they might acquire additional intelligence about the articles that I am calling to their attention.

This one says: “The \$MELANIA coins were released for just a few cents each on 19 January, the day before Donald Trump was inaugurated as U.S. President.” The day before he becomes President, the coin is released.

Then within hours, this coin price soared to \$13.73. It went from a value of a few cents, just a few cents to \$13.73. However, it then collapsed almost as quickly and is now only worth about 10 cents. It went from pennies to \$13.73, collapsed to less than 10 cents—about 10 cents. That is less than 1 percent of its peak price.

This coin traded at a peak of \$45.47 and now goes for \$5.79.

The article also indicates that: “The Trump family has pocketed more than \$1 billion in pretax profits from several cryptocurrency-related products and companies over the past 12 months.” In 12 months, they pocketed more than \$1 billion in pretax profits.

□ 1740

Pumping and dumping allowing consumers to be left holding the bag. Many people who assume that because the President’s name is associated with it or a family member of the President is associated with it, they assume that it is credible and then they do incredible things. They just buy into it because they assume that the name itself gives it the credibility that will cause them to make large sums of money.

Well, some people do make large sums of money. These are the people that introduce these coins. These are the people that pump them up, and these are the people who take their profits right off the top at the zenith of the market for the coin.

This kind of scam, this kind of scheme is something that we should not tolerate emanating from the highest office in the land. The President of the United States is in the business of performing what I call a hustle, a hustle of the country itself, of the market itself.

The President uses all sorts of scams to make money based upon the fact that he is the President of the United States and his name should bring some sort of credibility to products that other people will buy into and lose money.

I regret that this happens, and the best way for us to stop it right now immediately is for people to understand

that the President’s name is not worth what it appears to be worth. People should not buy into these scams simply because the President associates his name with it.

At some point, the President and his family members will take their money out and when that happens, the dumping starts. When the dumping starts, those consumers who bought in in good faith end up losing money.

Pump and dump: raise the price, sell, dump, and leave others holding the bag and they take the profits. This kind of corruption is not limited to just the family of the President.

Just today, the Secretary of Homeland Security, Secretary Noem, has been relieved of duty. There is a good reason why. Just today I spoke about this at the financial services hearing when we talked about this corruption.

Here is an article titled: “Firm Tied to Kristi Noem Secretly Got Money From \$220 Million DHS Ad Contracts.” This is indicating that the Secretary had these contracts within the purview of her jurisdiction and that there were ad companies, companies that were advertising on behalf of the Federal Government. These ad companies received some \$220 million in DHS contracts. Now, well, maybe that is not all bad. Ad companies make money. Ad companies should make money when they perform a service, a worthy service, but there is something about this contract and some of these that are a little bit different.

By the way, this article is dated November 14, 2025. ProPublica is the publisher, and I will read just a bit more about this before I go on.

Let’s read: “Advertising firms make money by taking an often-hefty commission. Federal records show the contracts have gone to two firms.” We are talking about the Secretary now and her contracts that were let under the jurisdiction of her office on her watch.

“The contracts have gone to two firms. One is a Republican ad company in Louisiana called People Who Think, which has been awarded \$77 million.” That is not the bad news, “But the majority of the money, \$143 million”—I repeat for emphasis—“\$143 million has gone to a mysterious LLC in Delaware. The company was created just days before it was awarded the deal.” Days before receiving a \$143 million contract, a mysterious LLC was created in Delaware, \$143 million.

Mr. Speaker, if it really walks like, looks like, and quacks like a corrupt duck, then that is probably what it is, and that is what this is—\$143 million, a just created company.

Well, the President and Ms. Noem have had a little bit of a disagreement about this it seems. The President denies any association with this, as he always does. My speculation is that Ms. Noem is correct when she gives the indication that the White House approved of what she was doing and, of course, the President doesn’t know anything about anything at all associ-

ated with some sort of corrupt activity that he might be aligned with. In this case, Ms. Noem is the person who is going to take the fall. She has been removed from her position.

By the way, there were Articles of Impeachment filed against her. I am one of the persons who signed on to them and believe that she should have been impeached. She has been moved now to some other position, but I think that Ms. Noem should be removed from the government, from the offices of the government. The good offices should not have Ms. Noem associated with them after this incident with the contracts, but more important than this, this is about money.

I think about what has happened with the human lives that have been lost—innocent persons, two people; American citizens, two people; unarmed, two people participating in peaceful protests—two people who have lost their lives. These people have families that are still in mourning, still in mourning, and the President and Ms. Noem just move on.

They go on to the next big scam, scheme. They move on to the next big thing that the President does that is questionable. For example, going to war without conferring with Congress. He decided that on his own volition he can just take nuclear-powered aircraft carriers into a position off of the coast of a country, engage in gun boat diplomacy, and then, after he concludes that the diplomacy has not succeeded, simply decide he is going to go to war and so much as say it.

Then we decide here in Congress that we are going to take up the cause of being Congress people because of the Constitution, which accords the power to go to war, conferred upon the Congress, placed within the hands of the Congress. Each Member of Congress will have a voice and a vote. When we decide we are going to take up this challenge and say to the President, you can’t do this, this is wrong, and it has to stop.

Well, my Republican colleagues will cover, and they do a good job of allowing the very power that has been accorded them, placed and entrusted to them in the Constitution of the United States of America, they now delegate that to the President even when it is in contravention of the Constitution, and it is because there was no imminent threat to this country from Iran.

No imminent threat, which is one of the reasons why I voted against H. Res. 1099—I believe that is the number for it—because it had in there that Iran is a threat to the United States. Iran is not a threat to us. We are a superpower. Iran is not capable of harming us. Then they say, well, in 10 years, they could. Well, in 10 years a lot of other things could happen, but I don’t think we should simply go to war because someone says to us that Iran is a threat to us when we know better. Our intelligence would tell you better.

Iran is just not a threat to the United States of America, and as such, I don’t

think we should be at war with a country that is not an imminent threat to the United States of America.

□ 1750

Mr. Speaker, Iran is not an imminent threat to the United States of America. We shouldn't be at war with Iran. I voted today for the War Powers Resolution, the Khanna resolution. It is a resolution sponsored by two Members of Congress. I mentioned KHANNA.

This is a resolution that we should respect, and we should make sure that history shows where we stood in such a time as this, when the resolution was presented to us on the floor.

I absolutely believe that if there is an imminent threat, then we can take—we can allow the President to have certain latitude. Without that, it should not be done.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MASSIE and Representative KHANNA. Representative MASSIE was the lead, I believe. Representative KHANNA was there with him. I thank them both for what they have done to bring this to the floor, and I regret that the resolution did not pass.

Mr. Speaker, moving on to the Trump politics and the corruption in politics, the corruption in politics emanates from the President having decided that he will simply take, in mid-decade, congressional seats from various States wherein Republicans have the ability to do this because Democrats happen to have seats that are coalition seats. These are seats where different groups have joined together, and they are electing representation of their choice.

Down in Texas, the President said let's take five seats from the Democrats and award them to the Republicans. The Governor of the State of Texas, being the loyalist that he is to the President, complied completely, totally, and absolutely as best as he could. I am not sure that he will succeed when the final bell rings on election night in November. I am just not sure.

They made every effort to do what the President has demanded, being the loyalists that the attorney general and the Governor of the State of Texas are. As a result, these seats were removed. There were five seats, one of them in Houston, when the Ninth Congressional District and the 18th Congressional District were combined. That means one less seat in Houston, Texas, on the Democratic side. When this was done, it created mass confusion, unbelievable confusion.

There were people who were prognosticating all kinds of things. People were saying that certain Members were not going to be returning. All of this prognostication has been, unfortunately, derailed because the persons who were engaged in it didn't quite succeed like they thought they would. They won't succeed like they think they will.

It is amazing how this corruption now brings in the crypto industry. The

crypto industry has decided that they are going to target people around the country, spending not \$1 million but millions of dollars. The crypto industry would, if they could, control the Congress of the United States of America. I am one of the people standing in their way. I will continue to stand in their way.

They graded me out, and I got an F. I am as proud of that F as any A I have ever received in life. I am very proud to say that the crypto industry does not find favor with me. They believe that those who receive A's from them should be rewarded by eliminating the opposition in Congress that is to them, the opposition to them in Congress.

The crypto industry is on a roll now. They are going to go around the country. They are going to buy congressional seats. That is what they are doing. They buy congressional seats. They buy reputations for people who are running on their side of the ledger. They then spend just millions of dollars on ads to try to remove people who are antithetical to what they are doing with their crypto program, the program which entails as little regulations as possible.

The best use of cryptocurrency right now seems to be that of allowing those who are engaging in blackmail and extortion to move large sums of money. They move large sums of money without it being traced. There are billionaires who would love and are enjoying knowing that they can move large sums of money without it being traced because these large sums of money can be used for nefarious purposes. They can be used for evasive purposes, evading taxes. These are large sums of money, unregulated, because the money can just move from one person to another in a flash.

Blockchain technology is a wonderful thing. The problem that we have—and the thing that I consider a problem for this country—is the impact that crypto may have on the dollar and the fact that these dollars do not move through a central bank, meaning from one person through a central bank to another person.

At some point, we will find that cryptocurrency can be used to fund nefarious operations against this country. How do we prove it right away when the money moves from one person to another without going through a central bank? I want to see this regulated. I do. I am going to continue to want to see it regulated, and I am going to continue to fight to have it regulated.

This is something that I believe is going to injure our interest rates when we borrow from other countries, if it has an adverse impact on the dollar. The dollar is the reserve currency of choice across the globe, meaning countries hold dollars in reserve in their coffers.

We should cherish and protect the dollar as a reserve currency. There are some people who are trying to knock

the dollar out of this place. There is a war for currency supremacy. In so doing, the dollar, if it is diminished in some way, our interest rates could go up.

We have to be careful in terms of having the supremacy of the dollar continue. Cryptocurrency could conceivably have an impact on the dollar. I have had some tell me that it can, and they are concerned about it. These are experts.

My hope is this: We will wake up and understand what is happening with the cryptocurrency purveyors, the people who want to take control of Congress. They are willing to spend millions, untold millions, to remove people from office who are antithetical to them. We have to take a stand against this. I will take that stand. There are many who will stand with them. In doing this, something else is occurring.

When they can take the congressional seats by drawing lines and simply taking them, and then if they can take them by using cryptocurrency—and these are friends of the President. They are friends of the President. The President and the cryptocurrency persons who would desire to control Congress, as the President would desire to control it, are all in this together. For the most part, right now, he does.

These people, when they use this cryptocurrency, they are using it to take away seniority. They want to get rid of senior Members of Congress, and they are using their crypto dollars—they are really American dollars. They are using this money to remove people from office, and they are going after senior leadership in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, senior leadership is important in this Congress. Senior leadership means the persons have been here. They have served. They understand much of how this great institution functions. They also understand how to get things done efficaciously.

There is something more important than all of this as it relates to senior leadership. If we decide that seniority no longer has any merit in the Congress of the United States of America—and that is the direction we are moving in. If we decide that seniority no longer has any merit in the Congress of the United States of America, money will rule. When money rules, many persons will lose. A good many of them will be people who just don't have access to billionaires, millionaires, people who are exceedingly wealthy who can fund their campaigns.

These campaigns are being funded. There are people who say they don't take money from corporate America or don't take corporate dollars. Well, no, they don't, but they have the money from these corporations in these independent expenditure accounts that are actually funding the campaign. That is a clever way to avoid saying that someone is getting the money into their campaign, although it benefits their campaign.

These companies are spreading this money out in huge amounts to benefit

campaigns. They are taking the seniority out. Seniority matters. It does in Congress.

If we allow this to occur, the seniority, the means by which some people move up, if it no longer exists, then money will rule. If money rules, we will lose.

□ 1800

We cannot allow money to dominate more than it does currently because it already has an outsized influence. If we allow money to take complete control—no seniority, I assure you—then people who just don't have access to the billionaires, the multimillionaires, and the very wealthy will not have access to Congress.

Then, people who look to certain people to bring up issues that are important to them will get them not as a primary consideration, not as a secondary consideration, not as a tertiary consideration—I am not sure where they would rank in the hierarchy of considerations—maybe quaternary, I don't know, but I do know that they won't be primary.

As a result, what happens to people who are here championing the cause of the very poor; the people who believe that Social Security is an investment, not simply an entitlement; the people who believe that there ought to be Medicaid for people who cannot afford insurance and who are living sometimes in the streets of life; and the people who understand that Medicare is something that we have to protect because the insurance companies don't want you after you become a certain age?

There are people here who fight for these things. That fight can be minimized. Don't you think for one second that there are not people who wouldn't take that money that is now in Social Security, in the government's hands, and put it in the stock market. There have already been efforts to tamper with Social Security.

I stand and fight for these things: Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. I have a history and a track record of fighting for these things. We fight, and we win. We win because you still have these programs. If we had lost the fight, you wouldn't have Social Security as you know it now.

Texas was offered \$100 billion for Medicaid expansion and rejected \$100 billion—Texas did—and we have to fight to get these things done. That fight will be limited to people who are wealthy in and of their own right and who can afford to take on the crypto giants and the very wealthy. It will be fights among the very wealthy and the puppets of the very wealthy. When that happens, this country is going to be a country that can no longer say that it stands for liberty and justice for all.

How can it be justice for all if poor people who need healthcare can't get it? How can it be justice for all if Social Security is minimized or placed in the stock market and is subject to the

whims of the market? No. The system that we have is a tried and proven system that works well, so we have to protect it.

We have to protect it from the crypto corruption that is finding its way into Congress to take out senior leadership and to destroy the system by which persons get there after having served for some time and being a senior person in line to have the opportunity to serve as a leader. That is pretty important for people who don't know millionaires and billionaires.

Mr. Speaker, finally, I think it appropriate to talk about not only how the corruption has permeated Congress and how the corruption is right before our eyes in the stock market, where pumping and dumping is taking place, but how the corruption is taking place as it relates to persons who simply are trying their very best to engage in the process of buying and selling stocks but find themselves on the losing end.

All of this corruption is taking place before our eyes, and we have to do something about it. I think that the best way to do something about a thing is to go to the root of it—the root cause. What is it that is at the very essence of the thing?

Mr. Speaker, this corruption is aided and abetted by a President of the United States of America, who is engaged in the corruption and the skimming and scamming in the stock market. He is a President who would take seats from one side and award them to another side just to maintain power and to make sure that he stays in office. He said as much that he is afraid that we will impeach him, and he is right. This President is at the root cause of this.

If you look around the world, you will see all of the turmoil that he is creating around the globe, across the globe, using the military at a whim.

He has taken on certain things that we just never expected a President to do. We always thought Presidents would have a certain amount of dignity, a certain amount of decorum, and a certain amount of principle.

This man has no principles. He does whatever he chooses, when he chooses, and he knows that he has the backing of Congress—that would be the House and the Senate on the Republican side, not the Democrats—and he has, to a certain extent, the backing of certain people on the courts who are loyal to him.

I regret to see all of this happening, but I do know this: There is a solution that the Constitution has given us here in the House of Representatives and in the United States Senate.

This is why this was instilled in the Constitution, this remedy that I am calling to your attention. It was put there for a time such as this and a President such as Trump.

This is why it is there. This is why we should use it, so that we would honor the Framers of the Constitution and their infinite wisdom and under-

standing that, when someone is placing himself above and beyond the law and being aided and abetted in the process, then there has to be a means by which that person can be dealt with.

It is political. It was intentionally political. The process is political. The process is such that you can bring that person before the bar of justice right here in the House of Representatives and, when that person is brought before the bar of justice here in the House, every Member has a vote.

Do not let people calling themselves constitutional scholars try to convince you that it is anything more than what President Gerald Ford said it was. President Gerald Ford said that this process is something that is lawful whenever 218 Members say that it is, assuming that that is the majority on a given day.

Whatever the majority says that it is in the House, there is no appealing the decision of the House. No Member has to say why they voted the way they voted. You vote. You vote your conscience with this process. When you vote your conscience with this process, if you vote to do as they did in a bygone era with Andrew Johnson, as they did with him, they voted to impeach him because he spoke ill of the House of Representatives.

Don't let people convince you that it has to be something that is more than what the will of the House says that it is because it is not appealable. It is comparable to an indictment in the House—not the same, but comparable.

Then, if this process functions as it should, it goes over to the Senate. Then, the Senate takes up the process, and the Senate can try the President. If the President is convicted, the President can be removed from office.

This process, you have been wondering what it is, I am sure. This process is one that we have a countdown on, and I am absolutely committed to it. There is a countdown to impeachment. Impeachment is the process. This is what the Framers of the Constitution accorded to us for a time such as this and a President such as what we have: impeachment.

There is a countdown to impeachment, and, yes, Mr. President, quake in your boots because I will tell you the truth: You will be impeached. We are laying the foundation for it right now. You are going to be impeached again.

There are people who would say that if you can't get him convicted in the Senate, why impeach him in the House? It is because we want posterity to know that the House of Representatives did its job.

Let the Senate then have the opportunity to do their job. We send bills to the Senate all the time that we know that the Senate won't pass. We do it all the time. We did it for tens of years with healthcare knowing that we couldn't get it done, and we finally did get what is called ObamaCare, the Affordable Care Act.

That didn't happen overnight. Many times, we sent legislation over to the

Senate that didn't pass, and we do it now. Yet, when it comes to impeachment, the persons who don't want to see it will say that we shouldn't use that same paradigm. You shouldn't send it over unless you know that the Senate is going to take it up and pass it.

□ 1810

If that is the case, we wouldn't send most of what we send over to the Senate right now because we can't pass it, and the Senate won't take it up, for whatever reasons. I am talking about from the Democratic side. We should not allow that to become the asset test for whether we are going to do the right thing. The right thing to do is to impeach him right here, send it over to the Senate, and give the Senate an opportunity to act.

I am committed to this process. I do it as a matter of conscience. I do it because I believe that we shouldn't allow this country to just go down the tube or down the drain. I don't want to see my country on the trash heap of history. This is a great country, and it can be great if we remove the stain from its conscience that the President has imposed upon it.

This is our time. We are the people, and we can change this because this President is truly unfit to hold the office that he holds. There are people who would defend him to the nth degree, and I cannot understand how you can see all that is happening to this country and still defend this President's actions.

We now have found ourselves devolving into authoritarianism. Then what lies beneath authoritarianism? One-person rule. One-person rule meaning more so than one person with cohorts, one person alone ruling a country that extolls liberty and justice for all, government of the people, by the people, for the people. That is where we are headed.

I stand in the way, with some others. I don't stand alone on this. There are others who are with me. But the people in this country are going to rise up and demand impeachment. In fact, they are already doing it. They are just waiting on us to catch up. Well, I am going to help us catch up.

There is a countdown to impeachment, and I am guaranteeing you and I am assuring you that there will be additional Articles of Impeachment brought before this House of Representatives. I do it as a matter of conscience, and I do it knowing that there are people who are going to spend all kinds of money to prevent me from doing it. Let them spend. But I will leave, if they do succeed, knowing that I gave it my best. Every day that I was here, I gave it my best, and I pledge to you you will continue to get my best.

God bless you. God bless the United States of America. The countdown to impeachment continues.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAMADEH). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

SHOOTING IN AUSTIN, TEXAS

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. ROY of Texas was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend in Austin, Texas, near where I live, we had a tragedy where an individual shot a bunch of Austonians, including several University of Texas students, at a bar on what we call West Sixth Street, in an area that I frequented often when I was in law school, a little less often these days. But it is an area that is a fairly normal place for people to go, not generally perceived as dangerous.

This past Saturday night, early Sunday morning, even as I believe I was returning home from the San Antonio Rodeo, or I had been there, I wake up in the morning to find out that there were three people who had been killed, one of whom was the shooter, and then later a fourth person would die, a third victim.

It was an unnecessary, senseless act. It is compounded by not just normal violence, but why this individual was here in the first place.

I think we have got to wrestle with some serious questions about who we allow into this country and why. The individual who killed these students—by the way, there were multiple others who were shot having surgeries. One young woman, a young student, was shot multiple times in her abdomen, and another young man who was shot in his head. It was not just the three dead victims. Other people were hurt. Other people were traumatized by it.

The individual who did it was wearing a "Property of Allah" sweatshirt, had a Koran in the back seat of the car that he had traveled in, was wearing an Iranian flag T-shirt under the "Property of Allah" sweatshirt.

What we know about him is that he came here from Senegal in 2000, overstayed his visa.

In 2006, he obtains LPR, or legal permanent residency status, under the Bush administration—I am going to be an equal opportunity basher of administrations who have failed to secure our border properly—and did so on the back of supposedly a marriage to an American citizen.

Fast forward to 2012, under Obama, he gets full citizenship, which Obama was handing out like candy, and then tries to get LPR status for two additional women, allegedly women he was marrying. I don't know whether in succession or at the same time. All I know is he was trying to do that.

Fast forward, he was arrested for a hit-and-run alleged in 2022.

My fundamental question is: Why are we importing people who are deeply at odds with the values of our country and

Western civilization? Why are we doing that? Why have we done that exponentially in the wake of the attacks of 9/11/2001?

It doesn't make any sense. This is avoidable. This man didn't need to be in the United States who does not share our values and clearly was interested in serving his convictions for Iran and radical Islamism more than his commitment to this country, peace, and our rule of law.

I am going to have more to say about that, but related to this topic, I am proud to be the cofounder, alongside my friend and fellow Texan, KERTH SELF, a veteran, a great public servant, longtime public servant, a great friend, who shares my conviction—I won't speak for him, but shares my conviction for ensuring we defend our values, our Western civilization, the rule of law in our country; that we stand up against the Islamist movement, putting sharia law forward in direct conflict with our laws.

I know my friend has a limited time, so I would like to yield some time to him to speak on this subject that concerns us both so greatly.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my good friend from Texas (Mr. SELF).

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I thank my very good friend, fellow Texan colleague and cofounder of the Sharia-Free America Caucus, Congressman CHIP ROY, for yielding me time.

First of all, I have been aware of and been involved in Iran since 1979. I commanded the Special Forces Detachment 18 at that time. While the trigger was not pulled, I was in a forward-deployed battalion, and we were prepared to go in early to get the hostages should we need to. We had just came out of a—actually, we had literally, just the week before, I believe, come out of a shooting house in northern Germany where we had actually rehearsed a hostage rescue.

I also was involved in Iran in 1984, when the 82nd Airborne Division was preparing Op Plan 1004.

I have been cognizant of and aware of Iran and planning for Iran since the late seventies, since the ayatollah took over.

Mr. Speaker, we have in the United States one Constitution, one legal system, and one supreme law of the land. No foreign code, no religious legal system, and no ideology that rejects our founding principles has any place here.

□ 1820

Just this week, as you heard, on March 3, 2026, Texas Republicans delivered an overwhelming message that cannot be ignored, should not be ignored. Proposition 10, which states that the State of Texas should prohibit sharia law, passed by—get this—a 95-percent landslide in the Republican primary.

Texans are saying loud and clear: American law only. Sharia is not compatible with our Constitution, and our constituents reject any attempt to import it.

This nonbinding proposition is a clarification call to this Congress: Protect our sovereignty before it is too late.

Tragically, just 2 days before that vote, on March 1, we witnessed exactly why this mandate is so urgent. In Austin, Texas, as the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) just outlined for you, a gunman opened fire on innocent people enjoying their night. He killed three young Americans.

We always say their names: 19-year-old Ryder Harrington, a Texas Tech student; 21-year-old Savitha Shan, a University of Texas student; and 30-year-old Jorge Pederson. Mr. Speaker, 13 others were wounded, some critically.

The suspect, as you have heard, was a naturalized U.S. citizen, originally from Senegal, who entered the United States on a B-2 tourist visa in March 2000, overstayed illegally, married a U.S. citizen in 2006 to adjust status to lawful permanent resident, and was naturalized as a full citizen in April 2013, despite a history of arrests both before and after receiving his green card.

Our broken legal system let him in, let him stay, and, disturbingly, made him one of us via naturalization.

Investigators found him wearing a sweatshirt emblazoned with “Property of Allah” and an undershirt featuring an Iranian flag design, and recovered a Koran from his vehicle. The FBI is investigating this as having a potential nexus to radical Islamic terrorism tied to U.S. actions involving Iran.

These three young lives filled with promise, dreams, and futures were stolen in an instant.

This is not random violence. The symbols were unmistakable and intentional: “Property of Allah,” references to Iran, and a Koran at the scene. This attack was a direct, bloody manifestation of the supremacist ideology that sharia promotes, one that claims divine authority over man-made law, demands submission, and justifies violence against those who stand in its way.

Islam steeped in sharia teachings that reject equality under the law, free speech, and constitutional governance is not some abstract debate. It arrived here through failed vetting and immigration loopholes. It took root over the years as a legal resident and citizen, and struck at the heart of Texas.

The enemy is inside the gates. Wake up, America. We don’t have to accept this. We don’t have to watch leaders, Republican and Democrat, allow individuals from regions hostile to our values to enter on temporary visas, overstay, marry their way into permanent status, become naturalized despite red flags, and then unleash terror on our streets.

This horror is precisely why Proposition 10 passed with such overwhelming numbers, because sharia ideology fosters the very extremism that turns foreign loyalties or personal grievances into mass murder on American soil.

This brings us to the heart of this matter. Sharia is not merely personal religious observation. It is a comprehensive political and legal system that stands in direct conflict with everything we hold sacred.

As Karl Popper warned in “The Open Society and Its Enemies”: “Unlimited tolerance must lead to the disappearance of tolerance. If we extend unlimited tolerance even to those who are intolerant, if we are not prepared to defend a tolerant society against the onslaught of the intolerant, then the tolerant will be destroyed, and tolerance with them.”

In the name of tolerance, we must claim the right not to tolerate the intolerant, although I admit that we, unfortunately, have to tolerate the Democrats.

Sharia, as a supremacist ideology that demands submission and rejects our freedoms, falls squarely into this category. It refuses to tolerate dissent, equality, or our Nation’s law.

To preserve America’s tolerance, liberty, and open society, we must firmly reject and refuse to accommodate sharia. Unlimited tolerance for such intolerance would destroy the very foundations of our tolerant Republic.

Sharia includes clear, real-world practices that directly violate our Constitution, such as wife beatings. Although, in America, you are prohibited from breaking your wife’s bones—I mean, it is disturbing that we even have to say this. It includes forced child marriages, child genital mutilation, and death penalties for apostasy, which is leaving Islam, and blasphemy. It also includes harsh penalties, like hand amputations for theft and stonings for adultery, and public floggings.

Sharia law is systemic inequality. Women receive only half as much inheritance as men. Their courtroom testimony counts as half a man’s value. Non-Muslims are treated as second-class citizens.

Sharia explicitly asserts supremacy over man-made law, explicitly, directly contradicting “we the people,” and the very foundation of our Constitution.

The Austin attack is a tragic, real-world illustration of what happens when elements of this supremacist ideology take hold here. We cannot afford to ignore the warning signs any longer.

That is precisely why Congressman CHIP ROY and I launched the sharia-Free America Caucus. It has grown rapidly to dozens of members, now 46 strong, from across the country, representing 22 States. The caucus’ mission is clear: ensure sharia never gains a foothold in America, protect the Constitution as the supreme law, secure our borders against ideologies that refuse to assimilate, and defend Western civilization. We will not surrender our freedoms.

I urge every colleague, Republican and Democrat, who believes in American sovereignty to join us.

Mr. Speaker, the American people expect us to defend the Constitution

against any ideology that seeks to replace it. Let us pass legislation affirming that no court may consider sharia or any foreign religious code. Let us strengthen vetting to keep out those who adhere to sharia. Let us advance the PAUSE Act to freeze immigration until our system is secure. Let us stand with the sharia-Free America Caucus and declare once and for all: America must be made sharia-free.

Mr. Speaker, I represent a district in north Texas. Mr. ROY represents a district in the Hill Country. I would ask the gentleman how bad he thinks the Islamization of Texas is.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend who has very well laid out the extraordinary problem we have as a country if we allow sharia law to take root. People say, well, yeah, just dismiss it. It is not a big deal. This is just a problem in Europe. You hear that all the time. Is that right?

Mr. SELF. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I would say absolutely.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, the fact is that it is a real problem here. It is not just Dearborn, Michigan, where some people get some headlines. It is not just New York City, where you now have Mayor Mamdani and prayer calls in the middle of Manhattan. We have—and I will let the gentleman expand upon it—300-plus mosques, and more mosques being built every year in the State of Texas than any other State in the Union.

We have EPIC City, which you can comment about, in your own backyard. We have a massive Islamic center in Houston, a massive Islamic center north of Austin, and an Islamic center in West Campus.

You say: CHIP, why is that a problem?

□ 1830

People can believe what they want to believe. They can build these things.

These entities are expressly putting out and advancing Islamism consistent with the plan laid out by the Muslim Brotherhood in accordance with some 600 organizations designed to do it, to put a footprint here that is ideological and political and designed to take over our country.

Would the gentleman agree?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. SELF. Absolutely. Texas has seen 48 new mosques in the last 2 years, just 2 years. That is roughly one every month. This is the fastest pace in the Nation, and it reflects rapid Muslim growth in suburban areas like DFW where I live and Houston which is closer to where CHIP lives.

Frankly, it is not just in Texas. I was told by one of our North Carolina Members just today that in his district they plan to build the largest mosque in this hemisphere, I believe is the way he characterized it. So, no, it is not just

in Texas. However, Texas is ground zero.

My district, I believe, Mr. Speaker, is ground zero because of this EPIC City, because of the mini mosque. EPIC City was going to be a 400-plus-acre compound, Muslim only, and if you invested a certain amount of money, Mr. Speaker, then you might be able to buy a plot of land and you might be able to build a house. However, when you sold the house, Mr. Speaker, you had to sell it to the right person using contract law and using our own freedoms, our own legal system against us.

Mr. ROY. Is the gentleman familiar with areas in and around the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, even nearby his own district in places like Richardson, in places like Arlington, and a little farther away in other areas, that some of our Texas women in particular, and generally, believe to be no-go zones? There are areas where they are increasingly feeling uncomfortable as if they are somehow immersed in the Middle East, in areas that do not share our values of equality, of treating people respectfully the same as peers, and where some of our women feel uncomfortable?

Is the gentleman familiar that that is the case, in fact, in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, from what we understand?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. SELF. Absolutely. I understand that from the local officials that women are not comfortable traveling there because, frankly, to quote an imam, women are animals created by Allah to be used by men. Women are no different from cows, sheep, horses, or mules. God made women resemble humans.

That is totally anathema to our vision of equality between men and women. It is not that men are women and not that women are men. We can define what a woman is. However, women have certain individual rights under our concept of individual human rights. Under sharia law, it is total submission. It is totally different. We need to understand that.

Mr. ROY. One last point, because I get it thrown in my face quite frequently that our Founders would be appalled that we are raising these issues and questioning people's ability to carry out and practice their faith.

I know that the gentleman is a student of our history and the Constitution, and he is a student of military history. I am confident that he is well apprised of the engagement that Thomas Jefferson had with respect to the Barbary pirates and the Barbary wars.

When posed with the question that Jefferson posed: Well, why do you make war with us?

The response was, as the gentleman knows: Well, we are commanded to in the Koran.

To which Jefferson was fairly appalled, as you would expect him to be, Mr. Speaker. We had to carry out wars

to make sure our shipping lanes were open and so forth.

I know the gentleman, who is a student of history, understands that that conflict was very clear and present even among our leaders as they were founding this Nation and the enlightenment that led to the First Amendment which we cherish, but the recognition of the direct conflict that the Islamic faith had, especially with respect to sharia law being carried out against our values and Western civilization?

Does the gentleman agree?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. SELF. Absolutely. In fact, there is a term now that is being used: civilization jihad. This is the importation of Muslims who are under sharia. It reaches the accommodation phase: Yes, we will pray in the middle of the street. No, you can't walk your dog on the public sidewalk. Then it goes to the intimidation phase that my friend was referring to earlier about women feeling unsafe on the street.

We do not want to get to the position where Great Britain is where they have rape gangs that kidnap young girls off of the street, take them and fill them full of drugs and alcohol, rape them mercilessly, and then the police arrest the young women for being drunk in public.

We do not want to get to that point that the U.K. is at currently.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I know the gentleman has to go to another engagement. I thank him for his leadership in working with me and cofounding the Sharia-Free America Caucus.

Do we now have 46?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. SELF. We are 46 strong as of today.

Mr. ROY. We have 46 strong and growing.

I would invite colleagues on either side of the aisle to join. We should all be united in having a sharia-free America. It is inconsistent with our values.

I appreciate his leadership, I appreciate his public service, I appreciate his friendship, and I wish him well this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend very much for allowing me to participate.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I would just note that in addition to what we just talked about, there is this view that Europe is unique. Right now there are some 50 million Muslims who have now moved into Europe.

We now have got France approaching 10 percent of its population. We have the United Kingdom at 7 percent-plus of its population. In the United Kingdom we have 85 courts carrying out sharia law alongside the civilian courts. In Germany they have 7 to 8 percent of the population. Spain and Italy, and a good chunk of Western Eu-

rope, is now approaching 10 percent-plus Muslim.

The question now is: As we are having a battle with Iran to take out their nuclear capability, at what point are we going to be concerned about a nuclear France or a nuclear United Kingdom?

People say: Well, CHIP, that is awfully controversial.

Is it? Is it really that controversial?

We have majority Muslim countries that are refusing to send their kids to schools in the United Kingdom because they believe that the schools there are teaching a radicalized Islam that is more radical than they have at home.

This is purposeful. This is being driven by the Muslim Brotherhood. This is not just happening in Europe. It is happening here, and but for an ocean, we would be Europe now. However, after the massively open borders under the Biden-Mayorkas regime, with the increasing shrinking of the globe, and with totally irresponsible wide-open borders and totally irresponsible "legal" immigration policies by this country, we are importing people who hate us and hate our values.

Why would we do that?

Someone explain to me why we would do that.

In the 25 years since 9/11 we have imported millions of people from countries that are diametrically opposed to our values.

Why? Why would we do that, and why would we continue?

I don't care what it is. I don't care if it is H-1B, and I don't care if it is tourist visas that people tend to overstay and we never enforce. We have massive and rampant abuse of our so-called legal immigration system, and I am sick and tired of hearing colleagues and, frankly, the administration, Republicans, generally Governors, who say: Oh, we love legal immigration. You just have to stop the illegal immigration.

Of course, we should stop the illegal immigration. It is the basic duty of government.

However, why would you continue massive, widespread legal immigration from countries that very heavily and largely oppose our way of life and want to transform it?

They do not wish to melt into the pot. They wish to take over the country and change it.

Stop doing that. This is common sense. But common sense was thrown out the window years ago.

Everybody lives in this touchy-feely nonsense bull that they were taught in school to say: Well, you know, you just have to open your doors to everybody. Have your porch open and have everybody come in.

Hold on.

Why would you let people in who want to undo what you have?

We have to have people who wish to come here to achieve the American Dream, who want to learn our language, conform with our laws and our

society, conform with our customs, conform with our heritage, celebrate and venerate our heritage, support In God We Trust, and accept our values.

We have Moses sitting right here overlooking the House Chamber. I am guessing that “Mr. Property of Allah” here, who shot up people in my town and killed students from the University of Texas and the Texas Tech student, would not be too excited about Moses overseeing our Chamber.

□ 1840

Look, we have to make choices. We have 53 million-ish people foreign born in the United States, almost 16 percent. It is the highest percentage of our population in history. In the 1920s—in 1924 specifically—Congress restricted immigration after a massive explosion of immigration in the late 1800s, early 1900s.

Now, let’s also consider at the time that while there were differences in cultures—German, Czech, Italian, whatever—predominantly, these were people who shared Western civilization values. They believed in our country, were going to schools that taught that our country was great, were going to schools that taught the Constitution, were going to schools that taught kids English.

At the time, we were trying to build a melting pot. Yet, even with that, we all recognized, whoa, whoa, whoa, maybe we need to pause immigration because we have had so many people come here, we need a little resettling to ensure that everybody here knows what being an American means.

For the better part of 40 years, we pretty much flatlined immigration, constrained it to negligible numbers. By the way, during that period, we ultimately were able to win a world war, ultimately have the baby boom post-World War II, and grew the economy.

Then sometime in the mid-1960s, we opened up the spigot, and we set forward now a 60-year march that has been a massive curve that has now exploded into the 21st century in which we have brought masses of population into our country, but now increasingly people who flatout do not share our values, and, worse, wish to eradicate our values and kill us.

Again, to my colleagues who like to yap on the House floor or on news media about how great legal immigration is, is this great? Is it?

Now, I want to say that I am not just making these numbers up. Since 2002, which astute observers of history will recognize was the year after 9/11, where 3,000 Americans were murdered by people who overstayed their visas, I would remind, all the friendly, oh, come join us melting pot folks who came over here on tourist visas that overstayed their visas and then flew airplanes into buildings.

Since then, the United States has issued 4.6 million green cards or lawful permanent status to nationals from Muslim-majority nations, allowing them to remain here indefinitely.

Now, I am sure there are some of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle that will come down and say: Well, CHIP, that is a good thing. Isn’t that great, having people come here, diversity?

Well, is it?

There has been a 48 percent increase in green cards to these countries from 2002 to 2023 since 9/11: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Yemen.

I am doing that for the benefit of the stenographer.

Meanwhile, sharia is exploding. They say no, it is not. Yes, it is. We have story after story of how that is being meted out in communities around our country, not always formally, but certainly in the communities in direct contradiction to our Western values and our law.

We have actually had courts being propped up. For example, Governor Abbott in Texas had to go quash two courts that were being set up in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, which is why I am saying we should pause immigration.

I introduced legislation in November to do that. Let’s just pause all immigration. We can allow tourist visas so long as we enforce visa overstays, but we shouldn’t reopen the spigots on immigration until we have revamped our badly broken H-1B system, until we have revamped the entire visa system, until we vet people for sharia law or adherence to values inconsistent with ours, until we fix *Plyler v. Doe*, a wrongheaded Supreme Court opinion saying that we have to allow illegal aliens to be able to get educated here, until we fix our broken immigration system, which the next Democratic regime will exploit, as Secretary Noem testified to yesterday in the House committee, that that would assuredly occur if we do not codify changes to asylum, codify changes to parole, codify changes to catch and release, that it will happen, and we haven’t done it.

By the way, the House hasn’t even passed it this Congress. Why? Why haven’t we passed it and sent it over to the Senate? Well, the Senate won’t pass it. Well, we are hearing that about the SAVE America Act, too, right now, but why don’t we just put more pressure on the Senate to do its job? Show up to work. Debate in the supposedly greatest deliberative body in the world in which they never actually deliberate.

When was the last time somebody saw a great speech on the floor of the Senate between two Senators, engaging in debate? The greatest deliberative body in the world? There is more deliberation in an average high school debate than the United States Senate.

I have offended a few Senators apparently by virtue of what a couple people said when I called it the nursing home and the Jell-O dispensary.

Well, forgive me. Not. Because you don’t do anything. The Senate is nothing more in today’s operation than the personnel office for the White House. That is it. By the way, it is not even doing that fully effectively.

Why haven’t we passed the SAVE America Act in the Senate? Well, CHIP, we don’t have 60 votes. Does anybody know how the filibuster and the rules of the Senate actually work? Sixty votes is one mechanism for shutting off debate, but you actually have to have debate to turn off. Have the debate. Put it on the floor.

Oh, but they might offer amendments, and those amendments might be really tough votes for our Members. Well, hell’s bells, you might have to vote on something in the United States Senate? Who could imagine the horror of running for office to become a vaunted United States Senator, and yet, oh, no, I might be forced to vote on something?

Heaven forbid that the United States Senate Republicans lock together, lock arms, have a strategy, and say, hey, why don’t we just table all the amendments.

I serve on the Rules Committee here in the House. We get amendments every week, gamesmanship by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. They offer amendments to put us in a bad position, to run ads against us that we are somehow the Devil because we voted against puppies and children and whatever it is. Boo-hoo. Vote no, move on, put a message out, but the Senate won’t do it because they are hiding.

The United States Senate is hiding behind a fake filibuster, a fake 60-vote threshold that is not real.

Put a bill on the floor of the Senate, allow it to be amended. Table the amendments, allow the speeches to go, make them sit there and speak, make them burn the clock, make them sit there for weeks on end, telling the American people how they oppose that only American citizens should vote in American elections, and that we should have voter ID to demonstrate you are who you are when you vote. Go sell that at home.

□ 1850

However, the Senate continues to hide, say we can’t do that. We don’t have 51 Senators. We don’t want to upset the filibuster.

CHIP, you are going to risk the filibuster. False. Fake news. We are saying use the real filibuster. Speak. Invite Mr. Smith to come back to Washington. Allow Mr. Smith to come into the Chamber and show you what a real filibuster is because it isn’t keeping the Senate in a quorum call while you go to fundraisers and State dinners or go parade in front of the screens on the committees, come down to the Senate floor, have a few votes, and then fly back out after 2½ days of work in a week.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was on the floor of the Senate for 3 months, 3

months. They were 25 votes shy of the then-cloture vote to shut off debate.

Right now, we are—I don't know—10 votes shy. Put it on the floor and see what happens. Let's see how many phone calls come into Senators' offices. After a week, after 2 weeks, after 3 weeks, you could pull it off the floor if you have got to move something important like DHS funding if Democrats stop blocking the funding of Coast Guard, FEMA, TSA. This is not rocket science stuff, y'all, but the Senate refuses to fight.

The American people demand that we actually preserve the integrity of our elections. The American people believe that only American citizens should vote in American elections. They believe you should have voter ID. The Senate should act. The House should codify President Trump's executive orders, send them to the Senate, and then the Senate can do another talking filibuster.

Mr. Speaker, they might have to show up on the Senate floor and force work. All of these things are related: wide-open borders, crime rates, organizations that are funding it, the advance of sharia law and the Islamist movement in the United States. All of it is tied to large networks of Marxists and Islamists that are trying to remake the United States of America and undermine everything about our history, heritage, our rule of law, the Constitution, the Declaration.

The question is: Are we going to continue to remain asleep, kowtowing to corporate America, telling everybody what to do for labor, earnings per share, and the bottom line so they can get better reports from Wall Street? Because that is what is happening.

You turn the management of affairs over to corporations, corporations that continue to buy up land, buy up ranches, buy up farms, often international corporations, almost often foreigners buying up American assets. Are we that slave to corporate America that we are willing to leave our doors wide open to the most dangerous individuals around that do not share our values?

A lot of people think that the sharia crisis is only in Europe and in foreign countries, and that it has not yet arrived here. That is false. It is alive, well, and growing. People are going to use the First Amendments incorrectly to hang us with it. They are going to pile weight upon the bow that is our system and it will crumble under its own weight while we fiddle while America burns because we don't want to say uncomfortable things that we can all see with our own eyes.

Why do you have to wait in line at the airport? Why can't you take a pocketknife in your pocket on the plane like we did for years? Why do you have to take your freaking shoes off? Was it because of some nice, Christian choir boys and girls from the local church in your community, or was it because of the rise of the Islamist

movement around the world? Was it from the Pan Am bombings and all the various terrorist attacks of the 1980s and 1990s culminating in 2001 on 9/11?

Open your eyes and see what the world is. Recognize the enemy before you and stop inviting the enemy into your home, and then allowing your own rules to be used to promulgate your own destruction.

It is a radical, political ideology that is at odds with the Constitution, the Declaration, and the rule of law. We should act like it. We should tighten down our immigration laws. We should pause immigration. We should vet people for adherence to sharia law. We should ensure that our communities stay safe and recognize the war that is being waged against us and take action.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that my good friend from Arizona is in the Chamber and is no doubt going to regale us with a tutorial on our debt crisis, the extent to which interest payments on the debt, the skyrocketing mountain of debt that is piling up as a result of mandatory spending, in particular, demographic changes, our lack of use of great medical technology, and other things that will allow us to save money and have a much better healthcare system and save our children from the scourge of debt and interest payments that I talked about.

Mr. Speaker, I suspect he will say something to those effects, and I think I have filibustered long enough.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I no longer have to speak because he just took care of the speech for me.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, can I say something and then I will turn it over to him because I have to go, but the gentleman and I poke each other and have a little fun. I am certainly prone to giving some speeches on immigration, board of security, and other things to come down to the floor. I think the floor should be used. I wish we had actual, real debate. I wish we had something other than Special Orders where you come down here and talk to an empty Chamber.

I think we should have 10, 20, or 30 of us down here for hours at a time debating serious issues. I think the American people would expect that. That is why I think the Senate ought to actually advance to debate. Don't be afraid of a real filibuster, but I will say as a compliment that the gentleman has done this for now over a decade. I can't remember how long he has been in Congress where he has been down to the floor and he gives those speeches. I don't mean that as a criticism because that message has been consistent.

By the way, the big, beautiful bill last year was nothing like I know what he wanted or I wanted. I wanted to go

much further, but what we did get in terms of Medicaid reforms, what we did get in terms of spending reductions, \$1.6 trillion in reductions and so forth, again, not what we wanted, would never have happened but for the groundwork being laid by people like my friend from Arizona, the speeches he gives on the floor regularly making the case for how debt, interest, and so forth is killing our country.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. The classic problem of—you are a brilliant lawyer. I am sort of a walking accountant or walking calculator. We both serve different—and a lot of people in the public don't understand—we serve different committees and they take over our life. You sit on Judiciary. Are you also on Oversight?

Mr. ROY. I am on Judiciary, Budget, and Rules.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Oh, so your life is hell.

Mr. ROY. I see it all.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Yeah. Your life is hell. I do Joint Economic Committee and Ways and Means. That is actually one of the elegance the Founding Fathers gave us is, we eventually end up where we are good. In some ways, I always loved the yin and yang thing here where you are doing the legal stuff and then I am going to actually sort of pound on the math.

Mr. ROY. Well, you do a great job of it. Keep pounding on the math. We have made slight progress with flat discretionary spending for 2 or 3 years and a little bit of work last year in the big, beautiful bill, but we barely dented the problem.

Mr. Speaker, the iceberg sits in front of us. We are on the Titanic. A few of us are pulling the wheel, but, hell, people on both sides of the aisle are pulling the wheel the other direction. Our kids and grandkids depend on us actually avoiding the frigging iceberg.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the Senate or its Members.

□ 1900

DEBT AND DEFICIT WILL TAKE US DOWN

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. SCHWEIKERT of Arizona was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, part of what we are going to do tonight is a little thick. Can you imagine that?

Mr. Speaker, I want to walk through a handful of things. Even as Mr. ROY was just touching on it, I need us to understand what is going on in our math.

Mr. Speaker, guess what. We had sort of a record today for not being in COVID or whatever disasters. Every day, I send out a text message. It is part of our Joint Economic Committee.

I have a few thousand people who subscribe to this. Yes, it is a little geeky. What we are doing is we are capturing the numbers from the Treasury Department. We have built a whole system where we grab those and send those out.

Mr. Speaker, you will be happy to know, over the last 12 months—and this will make sense in a moment—if you divide our borrowing, just our borrowing, we are now borrowing \$83,720 per second. That is \$83,720 per second. Functionally, when we do the 12-month math, that is a new record. Yet, we have flattened out discretionary spending. The things my colleagues and I get to vote on, that is flat, but we only get to vote on about 25 percent of the spending.

This is why it is so hard to actually have this conversation here. The majority of our debt—I am going to show some of this, and then I am going to show where we have some of the waste and fraud. I have to get to the alignment. Then, I am going to get to something that I think is actually optimistic.

We have to understand that we have a shortage of children. We have functionally the same number of 18-year-olds today as we had 20 years ago and double the number of 65 and up. We have known this was going to happen for a very long time.

It is almost like, is it because we are fearful of getting reelected? The White House gets cranky when we talk about these things?

It is Republicans and Democrats. We come here and talk about shiny objects, but we have a math problem. In 33 months, over half the spending from the government here in Washington, D.C., will go to those 65 and up.

Somewhere here, my 3-year-old is actually running around here. Yes, I am insane. I have a 3-year-old and a 10-year-old. My wife is exactly my age.

We have some math. If you use a 6 percent generational discount rate, you need 104 percent of my 3-year-old's lifetime income just to pay Federal Government pensions. That is Social Security, Medicare, military, and Federal. It is partially because we have so few children and so many baby boomers. It is not Republican or Democrat. It is just math.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to do what? Once more, the two primary drivers of our borrowing today, that \$83,000 per second, what are the two drivers? It is interest and healthcare costs.

Interest is a function of: We have \$38.7 trillion of borrowing out there, and that has to go to the markets. The market is going to set a price.

When we hear the discussions about the Federal Reserve, that is the short-term portion. When we start getting over 5 years, 7 years, 10 years, or 30 years, that is a market. We look at U.S. sovereign debt. What do we want to pay?

Mr. Speaker, think about this at the moment. Greece can sell a 10-year bond

cheaper than the United States today. Does that set off any alarm bells? Is that just annoying because the hallways are full of people who want nothing more than more money spent?

We get two types of folks that come lobby us and walk in our office. Don't always think they are lobbyists. There are often constituents from home who walk in and say, We want more money, or, We want you to control and regulate our competition.

Mr. Speaker, I am hoping somewhere here we can convince our brothers and sisters on the Republican side, the conservative side, that we believe in free markets. We believe creative destruction is a rebirth of an economy, and it should be happening constantly.

I know some of the populists don't like that. The fact of the matter is, if we don't get remarkable productivity improvements, I don't know how we get wage growth.

Remember, unless we can do something crazy in supplies—so, supply-side economics—we are not going to make prices go down. What we do is we make them more affordable by wage growth.

Wage growth happens by two things. The first is by inflation. Well, that is just treading water. It also happens by productivity. We do it better, faster, and cheaper through technology, through other systems, and through redesign. That is how we raise wages.

What happens in a world where the estimated share of outlays that we are going to spend in government—we have an obligation. Society made promises. When we turn 65, we get our Medicare. When we turn 62 to 70 or 72, we can actually take Social Security. We made promises. If a person works for the Federal Government or if a person works for the military, they have pensions.

Right now, my demographics, "Estimated Share of Outlays by Group," what does this government spend on populations? If a person is under 18, right now we spend 7 percent. In 2036, it goes down to 6 percent. Here is the punch line right here. This is my 65-and-up population. In the next few years, over half of our Federal spending will be to those—look, I am only a year away now—65 and up.

Are we supposed to talk about this? Those are obligations. We owe them. Do my colleagues see this down here? In 2036, we are down to 12 percent of Federal spending. Mr. Speaker, 12 percent of Federal spending is defense, and 52 percent will be to pensions and healthcare. Do my colleagues see the scale?

Remember, today, Social Security is the biggest spend. It is \$1.6 trillion. What is the number two? What is the number two spend in the Federal Government? It is not defense. It is interest. Then, it is Medicare. Then, it is Medicaid and ObamaCare subsidies, ACA subsidies. Number five is actually defense.

As CHIP ROY was just saying, I have been coming behind this microphone

for over a decade. I am wondering, where are people's intellect? Is it you need the satiation of being angry instead of thinking through the scale? What takes down a republic? I would argue debt and deficits and this financing are what will take us down. The bond market is now almost in the place where it will run this country.

Let's actually walk through a couple more of these and see if we can sort of make the argument so it makes sense. The second half of this chart is, in my personal opinion, garbage, but it is a projection. I want us just to look right here, from this point here, 2025 to 2036.

□ 1910

This is actually the population of 18-year-olds coming down because we can actually sort of calculate that right now. You have to understand—ignore this stuff. By 2036, we have only 4 million 18-year-olds.

The fact of the matter is: You tell me how I keep growth in an economy when I have shortages of young people entering the workforce, entering the economy?

I have done presentation after presentation. You are going to have to accept technology. You are going to have to accept synthetic biology. You are going to have to accept robots and labor substitution. If you want wages to go up in America and make things more affordable—one of the reasons President Trump has talked about this in many different ways at the White House and others, we had a population problem.

The math right now says that the United States is fairly close to zero population growth.

Do you remember your high school economics class where they taught you that GDP growth is a combination of step-ups in productivity and population growth. What happens when we don't have the population growth?

No, you are not magically going to create an army of new little babies. Bless them, but this is not just the United States. It is all over the industrialized world.

Oddly enough, the United States is still much better off than many, many countries. France actually has a higher fertility rate than the United States, even when you adjust for their immigrant population.

We have been trying to promote what we call a unified theory that says that the adoption of technology, the legalization of healthcare disruptions that will make us healthier, better; move to a truly talent-based immigration system; move away from the family sponsorship system, and President Trump has talked about this. Remember that he says that it is insane that we educate someone and send them home to compete with us.

There are about a dozen things on our unified theory, and you have to do them all at once. It is one of the reasons that I am not running again.

I had an agreement that we were going to do a second reconciliation.

Part of that reconciliation, we were going to do all of these ideas that saved money but didn't take away services. We were going to get rid of the waste and fraud and the misalignment and the way some of the things are scammed, and that became too hard.

You do realize that \$83,000 a second is \$7.4 billion a day. If you want something that is uncomfortable—maybe I shouldn't talk about this, so that means I am going to—DOGE. I absolutely loved DOGE's mission, but once again, you have to be able to execute it. You need Members of Congress who are tough SOB's to execute it.

When we started DOGE, it was going to be \$2 trillion. Excuse me. When the White House started DOGE, it was going to be \$2 trillion. Then it fell to \$1 trillion. You can go to [doge.gov](https://www.doge.gov) right now. It will be \$200 billion-plus of identified savings.

What have we actually executed? What have we helped them actually execute? It was about \$7 billion. We borrowed more than that just today. Does anyone see a math problem?

Let's take a look at this one. Contributions by outlays alone to the 2025, 1.75—I also need to—we all fuss about this in our office. Last year's sort of official borrowing was \$1.750 trillion. Understand there was a one-time kick-back of student loans. If not, it would have been closer to \$2 trillion, but, hey, math is math.

I need you to think about this.

Mr. Speaker, 17 percent of our contributions to that debt came from interest and 16 percent were the increases in national defense, the one thing that is in the Constitution here. When you start to actually take a look at the biggest spend, 29 percent was our benefits to those who are age 65 and up. Then you actually get over here, 54 to 64, that is 10 percent.

When you get to our kids, those who are under 18, we spent about 8 percent. When I say "spent," these were things that drove borrowing.

I am trying to create an understanding that, if we don't get our act together, we have really ugly things happening. In 6.5 years from now, the Social Security trust fund is empty. In 6.5 years from now, the Medicare trust fund is empty.

This is a 24 percent cut to your Social Security check, and this is an 11 percent cut to hospital reimbursement. That is 6.5 years from now, and the scale on it is monstrous. When I get idiots who will say to just raise taxes, I think the first year, which will be 2033, it would be, if you add them together, \$638 billion. The scale of this is monstrous.

How often do you see us stepping up and saying that we are going to start working on this today because it is going to take us a couple of years to figure out how we are going to finance this? Are we just going to pretend? We double the poverty of seniors in 7 years. We have a math set that says that we will double the number of baby

boomers who live on the street 7 years from now.

Does anyone have morality around here and want to just do the right thing?

The idiocy from some of my Democratic colleagues who will say that we will just raise the cap on this and that, if you actually do sort of the cap, the calculations, you get a nice spike for a little while, but it only covers about 38 percent of the shortfall.

This is not easy. Then many of us come up and say that we also have another math problem. Being on the Ways and Means Committee, we are supposed to actually manage the revenues into this Federal Government.

What happens when we have really good GDP growth but a lot of that isn't coming from labor but it is coming from capital expenditures?

Mr. Speaker, as you already know, we have an income tax-based tax system. We tax your capital gains. We tax your wages. We then have FICA taxes, which are your Social Security, your Medicare, your unemployment.

What happens when much of our economic growth is coming from capital expenditures and not the taxes on wages? We are actually sort of seeing we are forced to have a discussion of how do we finance the future of this government? Are we allowed to do that? It is reality.

So here is a question for anyone who is crazy enough to be watching. I always find this interesting. We will get some folks who, tomorrow, when this thing goes up on YouTube, who will fuss and say that the Chamber is empty. It is just the way it is at night, but we are on approximately a thousand televisions around the campus, and, hopefully, there is some poor intern who is stuck having to watch this.

Yet, we are probably on several hundred thousand, maybe a million television screens around the country if people are either freaky smart or have no life and are trying to find a way to fall asleep and are watching C-SPAN right now and some guy trying to do a semi-economics and debt and deficit lecture.

For those of you who do care, you start to walk through this math and say: How do you actually deal with the fact that these trust funds go empty in the next couple of years and our mix is changing and, yet, the groups that make their money trying to—all right.

□ 1920

Let's do the question: Is borrowing a tax? Mr. Speaker, it is a simple question. Is borrowing a tax? It is money we owe, and we have to pay interest on it. It is a tax paid for by a future generation, just as inflation is a tax on your savings. But we can hand out things—so last year, for every dollar we took in in tax receipts, we spent \$1.43. Now, this year, it is better with what President Trump did, what we did here. We pushed down some of the spending. We made our first adjust-

ments in Medicaid. Even then, the spending still goes up. It just goes up slower.

Our guess is that this year, for every dollar of taxation we collect, we are going to spend about \$1.33 or \$1.34. My math is closer to \$1.36. But you can't do that very long.

Let's actually walk through some of the things we have been analyzing as the Joint Economic Committee. I also chair the Joint Economic Committee. I have come here and done detailed presentations from the MedPAC report and other things on something called Medicare part C. It is Medicare Advantage. It is now 55 percent of the population. I really want to defend Medicare Advantage. I just want it to be more efficient.

We have a math problem. There is something in there where we have identified—and this is also from the MedPAC reports. We call it excess premiums for Medicare Advantage. This last year, we think it came in at about \$13-plus billion. What is funky about this is part of that exposure ends up on Medicare part B and Medicare Advantage, or traditional Medicare. This one is the traditional Medicare, and this one is the MA.

What that means is you are paying it. If you are on Medicare, particularly if you are on traditional Medicare, you are picking up a whole bunch of other costs. The Federal Government is picking up about 9.9 percent, and the States are having to pick up some of the burden also because of dual-eligible populations. Dual-eligible populations where you are poor enough that if you are on traditional Medicare, Medicaid picks up part of your copays.

But this is, once again, a mistake in the design of Medicare Advantage. We are transferring costs to other populations in Medicare.

The punch line here—we had a fight in my office whether I should walk everyone through the whole formula, and I think I would have had no one watching on C-SPAN because it is complicated. You need to understand that over a couple years, if you are on traditional Medicare, you are basically paying \$2,589 more because of this misalignment here, where these costs are being shifted to the Medicare part B portion.

We have a way to fix this. We have offered a piece of legislation that basically takes Medicare Advantage and puts it back to its tradition where you don't try to make more money by the risk scores or the star ratings. You put it into the initial bid, and, yes, you are going to have to do longer enrollments and those things so the insurance company invests in making you healthier.

What we see is a healthier Medicare Advantage population uses less, and the companies can make a bigger profit. It is good for society. It is a good win-win, but now you have to make a decision—and I am speaking more to the Medicare Advantage lobbyists right now, if there is anyone out there

watching—functioning zero is the proposal right now coming from the administration. Instead of redesigning the program and getting rid of—let's just call it—I won't call it waste and fraud. We will call it the misalignment that has been identified in the MedPAC reports, whether they be 20 percent more than fee-for-service or a future one that may come down to 17 percent, but that is still, over 10 years, like \$2 trillion of additional spending; or you can actually get crammed down here, which is what is coming; or work with offices like ours that want to take the program back to its original design where these insurers make money by helping their populations be healthier; or you can basically start to just get undercompensated over and over and over.

Once again, let's come back to the basics. If you go back to the MedPAC report, this is just the overpayment portion. This is not some of the other things that are in the MedPAC report that drive us insane. That was \$84 billion last year. We will sit here on the floor and fight for hours over a fraction of a fraction of a fraction of that because this is hard to talk about. It is complex, and there is an army of lobbyists to stop us from doing it.

Maybe we should learn to do the complex things because, once again, we borrowed \$7.4 billion today.

Let's do some happy talk. Last Saturday, in Scottsdale, we actually did a Joint Economic hearing, a field hearing. We brought in some incredibly creative companies in the healthcare space. We had one there that has actually come up with a type of multicancer detection. I am still having a little trouble on their technology. They think they can do it with a handful of drops of your blood that you could actually extract at home, and they put it on a plate, and they are looking for a type of peptide—it is not the ones you do when you are bodybuilding—a type of peptide that would help identify different types of cancer. They think they can get this product down to about \$150. You would do a multicancer test multiple times a year.

We had the gentleman sitting over next to me over here, he is from Doctor AI. If anyone is watching and you are interested, go look. Utah has just done a sandbox with them, so the State of Utah where the AI is doing renewals of your prescriptions. Why aren't we all doing that? There are ideas here where you had a revolution to crash the cost of healthcare.

WHOOP was there, and they were talking about some of the things that are coming in the future where you can be basically wearing your medical lab on your body. It can talk to the Doctor AI, and then the healthcare provider there knows whether you need to come in or whether it can be prescribed to you just automatically.

Mr. Speaker, my point is if we could get our act together and start being creative and doing the hard things and stop making the technology disruptions, because they are functioning illegal today, you know, allowing AI to prescribe, allowing the wearables. Remember, the newest version of Apple Watch is an FDA-approved medical device for the heart, just a thought experiment within its scope of what has been approved by the FDA should be allowed to prescribe. Are we ready to start doing things like that?

If we don't start telling the truth about the math, the next few years are going to be hell around here. I won't be here for it, but you will. Is winning the next election that much more important than telling the truth? I am in a 50/50 District. I get up into entire meetings on how to save Social Security, how to save Medicare, how to save these things, and I have been rewarded over and over and over. I think I am one of the most expensive races and losses for the Democrats in all of America.

You can win. Treat your voters with respect. Treat them as having an intellect and treat them that it doesn't have to be a dystopian darkness if you are willing to innovate. But if you are not willing, it gets ugly.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back.

□ 1930

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
SPEAKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 5, 2026.

I hereby designate the period from Thursday, March 5, 2026, through Sunday, March 15, 2026, as a “district work period” under clause 13 of Rule I.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Kevin F. McCumber, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3377. An act to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to James Capers, Jr., for acts of valor as a member of the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War.

H.R. 7194. An act to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Nicholas Dockery for acts of valor as a member of the Army while serving in Afghanistan.

H.R. 7211. An act to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to John W. Ripley for acts of valor during the Vietnam War, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 723.—An act to require the Bureau of Indian Affairs to process and complete all mortgage packages associated with residential and business mortgages on Indian land by certain deadlines, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 13 of rule I, the House stands adjourned until Monday, March 9, 2026.

Thereupon (at 7 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, March 9, 2026, at 1 p.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollar utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first, second, third, and fourth quarters of 2024, the fourth quarter of 2025, and the first quarter of 2026 pursuant to Public Law 95–384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COURTNEY BUTCHER, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 15 AND JAN. 19, 2026

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Courtney Butcher	1/15	1/16	Panama .....	.....	254.00	.....	(3)	.....	.....	.....	254.00
	1/16	1/18	Guatemala .....	.....	440.25	.....	(3)	.....	.....	.....	440.25
	1/18	1/19	El Salvador .....	.....	91.00	.....	(3)	.....	.....	.....	91.00
Committee total .....	.....	.....		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	785.25

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, WYNDEE PARKER, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 25 AND JAN. 28, 2026

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Wyndee Parker	1/25	1/28	Taiwan		789.94		17,062.20				17,852.14
Committee total											17,852.14

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. MIKE JOHNSON, Feb. 27, 2026.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DR. BRIAN MONAHAN, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 24 AND JAN. 29, 2026

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Dr. Brian Monahan	1/24	1/29	Argentina		1,755.15		(³)				1,755.15
Committee total											1,755.15

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Military air transportation.

HON. MIKE JOHNSON, Feb. 27, 2026.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, AMELIA LITYNSKI, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 25 AND JAN. 30, 2026

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Amelia Litynski	1/25	1/28	South Korea		1,257.00	7,319.23					8,396.23
	1/28	1/30	Japan		1,395.65	See above					1,395.65
Committee total											9,791.88

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. MIKE JOHNSON, Feb. 27, 2026.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 16 AND JAN. 20, 2026

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Mike Johnson	1/16	1/20	United Kingdom		3,141.65		(³)/578.50				3,720.15
Hayden Haynes	1/16	1/20	United Kingdom		3,141.65		(³)				3,141.55
Garrett Fultz	1/16	1/20	United Kingdom		3,141.65		(³)/578.50				3,720.15
Chris Bien	1/16	1/20	United Kingdom		3,141.65		(³)/578.50				3,720.15
Dana Planning	1/12	1/20	United Kingdom		5,968.17		(³)/1,370.43				7,338.60
Jacqueline Russell	1/16	1/20	United Kingdom		3,141.65		(³)/578.50				3,720.15
Meredith Turton	1/16	1/20	United Kingdom		3,141.65		(³)/578.50				3,720.15
Corinne Day	1/16	1/20	United Kingdom		3,141.65		(³)/578.50				3,720.15
Sophia Slack	1/16	1/20	United Kingdom		3,141.65		(³)/578.50				3,720.15
William Johnson	1/16	1/20	United Kingdom		3,141.65		(³)/578.50				3,720.15
Grace Barrett	1/16	1/20	United Kingdom		3,141.65		(³)/578.50				3,720.15
Meghan McCann	1/11	1/20	United Kingdom		6,447.30		(³)/1,370.43				7,817.73
Steven Bertolini	1/16	1/20	United Kingdom		3,141.65		(³)/578.50				3,720.15
Kate Knudson	Did Not Travel	Did Not Travel	United Kingdom		2,445.65		Did Not Travel				2,445.65
Committee total											57,945.13

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Military air transportation.

HON. MIKE JOHNSON, Feb. 18, 2026.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2025

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Darin LaHood	11/21	11/26	Middle East		1,189.97		21,073.21				
Tara Westby	11/21	11/26	Middle East		1,189.97		9,906.31				
Edyt Dickstein	11/21	11/26	Middle East		1,189.97		9,673.11				
					3,569.91		40,652.63				44,222.54
Rick Trimble	12/4	12/8	Asia		825.92		10,137.43				
Tara Westby	12/4	12/8	Asia		825.92		10,137.43				
Edyt Dickstein	12/4	12/8	Asia		825.92		10,237.43				
Matthew Pylypciw	12/4	12/8	Asia		825.92		10,137.43				
Payson Ruhl	12/4	12/8	Asia		825.92		10,087.43				
					4,129.60		40,649.72				44,779.32
Hon. Rick Crawford	11/29	12/1	Central America		731.56						
Hon. French Hill	11/29	12/1	Central America		731.56						
Hon. Ronny Jackson	11/29	12/1	Central America		731.56						
Hon. Ben Cline	11/29	12/1	Central America		731.56						
Hon. Claudia Tenney	11/29	12/1	Central America		731.56						
Hon. Jim Himes	11/29	12/1	Central America		731.56						

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2025—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Matthew Pylypciw	11/29	12/1	Central America		693.22						
Griffin Decker	11/29	12/1	Central America		693.22						
Henry Wilson	11/29	12/1	Central America		693.22						
Frank Garcia	11/29	12/1	Central America		693.22						
Lesley Byers	11/29	12/1	Central America		693.22						
					7,855.46						7,855.46
Total					15,554.97		81,302.35				96,857.32

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD, Feb. 25, 2026.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE STRATEGIC COMPETITION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2024

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Landon Heid	2/24	2/29	BE, CZ		1,969.65						1,969.65
Kit Conklin	2/24	2/29	BE, CZ		1,969.65						1,969.65
Melodie Ha	2/24	2/29	BE, CZ		1,969.65						1,969.65
Xiyue Wang	2/24	2/29	BE, CZ		1,969.65						1,969.65
Joe Bauer	2/24	2/29	BE, CZ		1,969.65						1,969.65
Jack Wroldsen	2/24	2/29	BE, CZ		1,969.64						1,969.64
Julissa Walsh	3/5	3/24	CD, AN		1,604.00						1,604.00
Jake Parker	3/5	3/24	CD, AN		1,604.00						1,604.00
Jake Gilluly	3/5	3/24	CD, AN		1,604.00						1,604.00
James Cunningham	3/5	3/24	CD, AN		1,604.00						1,604.00
Linda Zhang	3/5	3/24	CD, AN		1,604.00						1,604.00
Tyler Brace	3/19	3/24	AN		1,295.00						1,295.00
Tyler Brace	2/18	2/21	GA		1,315.00						1,315.00
Julissa Walsh	2/18	2/21	GA		1,315.00						1,315.00
James Cunningham	2/18	2/21	GA		1,315.00						1,315.00
James Jilully	2/18	2/21	GA		1,315.00						1,315.00
Jake Parker	2/18	2/21	GA		1,315.00						1,315.00
Linda Zhang	2/18	2/21	GA		1,315.00						1,315.00
Committee total					29,022.89						29,022.89

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR, Feb. 6, 2026.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE STRATEGIC COMPETITION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2024

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Caroline Vik	4/1	4/7	IN		1,489.06						1,489.06
David Dorfman	4/1	4/7	IN		2,035.77						2,035.77
Xiyue Wang	4/1	4/7	IN		1,704.91						1,704.91
William Poplawski	4/1	4/7	IN		1,704.91						1,704.91
Jacob Parker	5/9	5/24	AU		1,095.00						1,095.00
John Gilluly	5/9	5/24	AU		1,095.00						1,095.00
Jacob Goldschlager	5/9	5/24	AU		968.00						968.00
Charles Morrison	4/22	4/27	PH, JP		1,806.53						1,806.53
John Noh	4/22	4/27	PH, JP		1,806.53						1,806.53
Jenna Lifhits	4/22	4/27	PH, JP		1,806.52						1,806.52
"Linda" Tingyun Zhang	4/22	4/27	PH, JP		1,806.51						1,806.51
Committee total					17,318.74						17,318.74

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR, Feb. 6, 2026.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE STRATEGIC COMPETITION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2024

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
John Noh	7/15	7/17	PW	1,131.00							1,131.00
Charles Morrison	7/15	7/17	PW	1,131.00							1,131.00
Jason Li	7/15	7/17	PW	1,131.00							1,131.00
Matthew Cronin	7/11	7/20	JP, TW	1,576.00							1,576.00
Andrew Eich	7/11	7/20	JP, TW	1,576.00							1,576.00
Joe Bauer	7/11	7/20	JP, TW	1,576.00							1,576.00
David Dorfman	7/11	7/20	JP, TW	1,576.00							1,576.00
Landon Heid	7/15	7/20	SA, AE	2,504.02							2,504.02
Melodie Ha	7/15	7/20	SA, AE	2,504.02							2,504.02
Xiyue Wang	7/15	7/20	SA, AE	2,504.02							2,504.02
Kelvin Giang	7/15	7/20	SA, AE	2,504.02							2,504.02
Dwayne Clark	7/15	7/20	SA, AE	2,504.02							2,504.02
Jake Parker	8/13	8/23	JA, MY, ID	2,580.22							2,580.22
Jake Jilully	8/13	8/23	JA, MY, ID	2,580.21							2,580.21
Adam Jackman	8/13	8/23	JA, MY, ID	2,580.21							2,580.21

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE STRATEGIC COMPETITION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2024—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Linda Zhang	8/13	8/23	JA, MY, ID	2,580.21	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,580.21
Hon. John Mooleenaar	8/26	8/30	JP, KR	1,950.82	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,950.82
Hon. Ro Khanna	8/26	8/30	JP, KR	1,705.19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,705.19
Hon. Ben Cline	8/26	8/30	JP, KR	1,705.19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,705.19
Hon. Tom Suozzi	8/26	8/30	JP, KR	1,705.19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,705.19
Hon. Brian Babin	8/26	8/30	JP, KR	1,705.19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,705.19
Hon. Barry Loudermilk	8/26	8/30	JP, KR	1,705.19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,705.19
Charles Mossison	8/26	8/30	JP, KR	1,705.19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,705.19
Landon Heid	8/26	8/30	JP, KR	1,705.19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,705.19
Austern Adcock	8/26	8/30	JP, KR	1,705.19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,705.19
Allison Aprahamian	8/26	8/30	JP, KR	1,705.19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,705.19
Caroline Vik	8/20	9/6	LK, MV, MY, SG	1,887.05	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,887.05
Xiye Wang	8/20	9/6	LK, MV, MY, SG	1,887.05	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,887.05
Daniel Berman	8/20	9/6	LK, MV, MY, SG	1,887.05	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,887.05
Committee total				55,496.63	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	55,496.63

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR, Feb. 9, 2026.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE STRATEGIC COMPETITION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2024

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Landon Heid	10/20	10/26	NO, IS	2,278.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,278.00
Xiye Wang	10/20	10/26	NO, IS	2,278.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,278.00
Melodie Ha	10/20	10/26	NO, IS	1,971.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,971.00
William Poplawski	10/20	10/26	NO, IS	2,278.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,278.00
Pranay Mittal	10/20	10/26	NO, IS	2,278.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,278.00
Julissa Walsh	10/8	10/18	DJ, SA, KE, TZ	2,850.38	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,850.38
Jake Parker	10/8	10/18	DJ, SA, KE, TZ	2,850.38	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,850.38
Jake Gilluly	10/8	10/18	DJ, SA, KE, TZ	2,850.38	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,850.38
Christopher Kulukundis	10/8	10/18	DJ, SA, KE, TZ	2,850.38	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,850.38
James Cunningham	10/8	10/18	KE, TZ	1,606.31	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,606.31
James Li	10/8	10/18	KE, TZ	1,606.31	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,606.31
John Noh	10/6	10/10	FM, MH	347.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	347.00
Committee total				26,044.14	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	26,044.14

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR, Feb. 9, 2026.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

EC–2965. A letter from the Chairman of the Council, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 26-262, “Extreme Heat Eviction Protection Amendment Act of 2026”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 813); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC–2966. A letter from the Chairman of the Council, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 26-263, “Anacostia Business Improvement District Amendment Act of 2026”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 813); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC–2967. A letter from the Chairman of the Council, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 26-264, “Soul of the City Business Improvement District Amendment Act of 2026”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 813); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC–2968. A letter from the Chairman of the Council, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 26-265, “LIHTC Rent Stabilization Exemption Clarification Amendment Act of 2026”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 813); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC–2969. A letter from the Chairman of the Council, Council of the District of Columbia,

transmitting D.C. Act 26-266, “First Responder Retention Efforts Temporary Amendment Act of 2026”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 813); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC–2970. A letter from the Chairman of the Council, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 26-267, “Pretrial Detention Reporting Temporary Amendment Act of 2026”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 813); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC–2971. A letter from the Chairman of the Council, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 26-274, “Clemency Board Waiver Authority Temporary Amendment Act of 2026”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 813); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. HURD of COLORADO (for himself and Ms. DEGETTE):

H.R. 7811. A bill to amend the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978 to extend the authorization of a disposal site in Mesa County, Colorado, until the site is filled to designed capacity; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 7812. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to impose additional requirements with respect to importers of record, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BABIN (for himself, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. SORESENSEN, Mrs. BICE, and Mr. AMO):

H.R. 7813. A bill to amend the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 to require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to expand and modernize the weather radio system of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. BELL:

H.R. 7814. A bill to establish an independent statutory commission within the legislative branch responsible for ensuring oversight, transparency, and accountability over the Department of Justice operations and handling of the Epstein Files, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BERGMAN (for himself, Mr. CORREA, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. BOST, and Mr. DUNN of Florida):

H.R. 7815. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to establish the Red Star Service Banner as an officially recognized service banner, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BIGGS of ARIZONA (for himself, Mr. CRANE, and Mr. CLYDE):

H.R. 7816. A bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to implement reforms, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent law enforcement and intelligence agencies from obtaining certain commercially available information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BOEBERT (for herself, Mr. HURD of Colorado, Mr. CRANK, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. DONALDS, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. KENNEDY of Utah, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. CLYDE):

H.R. 7817. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to ensure that taxpayer funds for health insurance coverage are available only to authorized individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 7818. A bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to allow interstate shipment of meat and meat food products inspected and passed under qualifying State programs; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CASTEN (for himself and Mr. CASTRO of Texas):

H.R. 7819. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an audit of a United States and Venezuela energy deal, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK:

H.R. 7820. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules for investments in qualified opportunity funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CORREA (for himself, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. TLAIB, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 7821. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a business tax credit for the purchase of zero-emission electric lawn, garden, and landscape equipment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself and Mr. MRVAN):

H.R. 7822. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to promulgate regulations for the payment of refunds for tariffs invalidly assessed using authorities provided by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act to entities that demonstrably lower consumer prices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. ESCOBAR:

H.R. 7823. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Traveler Redress Inquiry Program of the Department of Homeland Security, to provide to individuals whose enrollment in a Trusted Traveler program is denied, suspended, or early terminated an option to appeal such denial, suspension, or early termination, as the case may be, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. FISCHBACH (for herself and Mr. FINSTAD):

H.R. 7824. A bill to extend whistleblower protections to individuals who disclose mis-

use of Federal funds administered by State and local officials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. FONG (for himself, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Ms. BYNUM, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Ms. TOKUDA):

H.R. 7825. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude qualified wildfire relief payments from gross income, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. FOUSHEE:

H.R. 7826. A bill to amend the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020 to provide for a special allocation of certain awards of financial assistance to historically Black Colleges and Universities relating to national artificial intelligence research institutes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. GARCIA OF CALIFORNIA (for himself, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. FROST, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. AMO, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. SIMON, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. CHU, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 7827. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to restrict the sale and procurement of certain weapons and ammunition by the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. GRIJALVA (for herself, Ms. BALINT, Mr. CARSON, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LIEU, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MOYLAN, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SOTO, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. TITUS, and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 7828. A bill to amend title XVI of the Social Security Act to update eligibility for the supplemental security income program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HERNÁNDEZ (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. STANTON, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. COSTA, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. POU, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana):

H.R. 7829. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from carrying out any policy that imposes an arbitrary monetary threshold on the obligation or disbursement of disaster relief funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. KELLY OF ILLINOIS (for herself, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. BROWN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. TONKO, Mr. FIELDS, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 7830. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require hospitals to develop discharge plans for pregnant individuals as a condition of participation under Medicare, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and

Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KENNEDY OF UTAH:

H.R. 7831. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to extend the period of time during which the Secretary of the Interior is required to collect a fee for each new application for a permit to drill, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. KHANNA (for himself, Mrs. BICE, and Mr. AUCHINCLOSS):

H.R. 7832. A bill to establish the America's Living Library Project, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, House Administration, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY (for himself and Mr. SOTO):

H.R. 7833. A bill to amend the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act to provide for the termination of the Oversight Board under certain circumstances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. LEE OF FLORIDA (for herself, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. KNOTT):

H.R. 7834. A bill to limit liability for certain entities storing child sexual abuse material for law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. LETLOW:

H.R. 7835. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to redefine the eastern and middle judicial districts of Louisiana; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York):

H.R. 7836. A bill to establish, under article I of the Constitution of the United States, a court of record to be known as the United States Immigration Courts; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MEUSER:

H.R. 7837. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to require the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to test a model implementing most-favored-nation drug pricing; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MILLS:

H.R. 7838. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a procurement program to facilitate the ability of the medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs to make direct procurements of original artwork from veterans who are patients, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MIN (for himself, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 7839. A bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a

consumer product safety standard for the uniform classification and labeling of certain electric bicycles and other off-road electric devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MOORE of UTAH (for himself and Mr. CARBAJAL):

H.R. 7840. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to prohibit event contracts based on terrorism, assassination, war, gaming, illegal activity, election outcomes, government activities, or other activities determined by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to be contrary to the public interest, and to allow States to exempt themselves from the prohibition on gaming contracts; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. MORRISON (for herself, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mr. MCGARVEY):

H.R. 7841. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to include infertility as a condition presumed to be incurred or aggravated by toxic exposure in the course of active military, naval, air, or space service; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. OGLES (for himself, Mr. CRANE, and Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana):

H.R. 7842. A bill to amend section 5318 of title 31, United States Code, to require financial institutions to verify the lawful immigration status of applicants for deposit accounts through a self-attestation form, to impose penalties on individuals for false attestations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PERRY (for himself, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. ROY, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina, and Mr. STELL):

H.R. 7843. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit universal free fare policies on public transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. HORSFORD):

H.R. 7844. A bill to provide the Secretary of Homeland Security with the authority to transfer funds between accounts under the Department of Homeland Security during a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. LEVIN):

H.R. 7845. A bill to amend the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 with respect to the total amount of Federal assistance for projects in States experiencing severe drought, regionally and nationally significant projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RULLI (for himself, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. FINE):

H.R. 7846. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish a criminal penalty for obstructing immigration enforcement activities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SMUCKER (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. FONG, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Ms.

TENNEY, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. YAKYM, and Mr. ESTES):

H.R. 7847. A bill to amend title III of the Social Security Act and the Federal Unemployment Tax Act to require identity verification procedures and data matching, to prevent unemployment fraud, and to strengthen work search requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SORENSEN:

H.R. 7848. A bill to establish the National Weather Safety Board to investigate certain major disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. SPARTZ:

H.R. 7849. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to exempt nonroad engines and vehicles that are used for agricultural purposes from the emission standards of that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. SPARTZ:

H.R. 7850. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to provide for the diagnosis, maintenance, and repair of certain digital electronic agricultural equipment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. SPARTZ:

H.R. 7851. A bill to amend the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to publish information related to orders under commodity promotion laws; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. STEVENS (for herself, Mr. TRAN, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. SORENSEN, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 7852. A bill to require new ethics obligations and restrictions for Members of Congress, their spouse, and dependents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, the Judiciary, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself, Mr. POCAN, and Ms. BALINT):

H.R. 7853. A bill to increase access to pre-exposure prophylaxis to reduce the transmission of HIV; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, Ways and Means, Veterans' Affairs, Armed Services, Natural Resources, Financial Services, and Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. TLAIB (for herself, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, and Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK):

H.R. 7854. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a National Institute for Biomedical Research and Development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. VELAZQUEZ (for herself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. McIVER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TITUS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 7855. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to expand access to school-wide arts and music

programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BELL, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CHU, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COSTA, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. IVEY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LIEU, Ms. McLELLAN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MRVAN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. ROSS, Mr. SOTO, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 7856. A bill to provide protection for survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, and sex trafficking under the Fair Housing Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:

H.R. 7857. A bill to impose sanctions on foreign persons the President determines to have knowingly engaged in, facilitated, or benefitted from severe forms of trafficking in persons in connection with the Jeffrey Epstein sex trafficking enterprise or in connection with efforts to conceal, facilitate, finance, or profit from such enterprise; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. THANEDAR, and Mrs. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 7858. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study on the effect of data centers on communities of color and low-income communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. MOULTON, and Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida):

H.R. 7859. A bill to provide that the Proclamation entitled, "Restriction On Entry Of Certain Nonimmigrant Workers" shall have no force or effect; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ESTES:

H. Con. Res. 76. Concurrent resolution recognizing the visionary leadership of Chief Richard LaMunyon and the profound global impact of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. AMO, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. BELL, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BROWN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BYNUM, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASAR, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN

of Pennsylvania, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DELUZZO, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. DEXTER, Ms. ELFRETH, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. FIGURES, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. FROST, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. GRIJALVA, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HERNÁNDEZ, Mr. HIMES, Ms. BUZINSKI, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. HOYER, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. IVEY, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LATIMER, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. LICCARDO, Mr. LIEU, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. McDONALD RIVET, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Ms. MORRISON, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. NEAL, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. PETERSEN, Ms. POUL, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. RILEY of New York, Ms. RIVAS, Ms. ROSS, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Ms. SIMON, Mr. SOTO, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TITUS, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. TONKO, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WHITESIDES, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. GILLEN, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. MENEFEE, Mr. MFUME, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. SCANLON, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. HILL of Arkansas, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VINDMAN, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MANNION, Mr. BERA, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Mr. CORREA):

H. Res. 1107. A resolution memorializing Rev. Jesse Jackson by flying the flag of the United States at halfstaff; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Mr. FROST, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TITUS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania):

H. Res. 1108. A resolution expressing support for designation of March 2026 as Music in Our Schools Month; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself, Mr. POCAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. TITUS, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. MENEFEE, and Mr. CARSON):

H. Res. 1109. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. HURD of Colorado:

H.R. 7811.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 4 Section 3 Clause 2

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 7812.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. BABIN:

H.R. 7813.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

“The Congress shall have Power. . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

By Mr. BELL:

H.R. 7814.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. BERGMAN:

H.R. 7815.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BIGGS of Arizona:

H.R. 7816.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, which empowers Congress to provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States;

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, which empowers Congress to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, which empowers Congress to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by the Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof; and

Article III, Section 1 of the United States Constitution, which empowers Congress to ordain and establish courts inferior to the Supreme Court.

By Ms. BOEBERT:

H.R. 7817.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises,

to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 7818.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. CASTEN:

H.R. 7819.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK:

H.R. 7820.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CORREA:

H.R. 7821.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

United States Constitution, Article I, Section 8

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 7822.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Ms. ESCOBAR:

H.R. 7823.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS

CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have the power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested in this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mrs. FISCHBACH:

H.R. 7824.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. FONG:

H.R. 7825.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

16th Amendment

By Mrs. FOUSHEE:

H.R. 7826.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1

By Mr. GARCIA of California:

H.R. 7827.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mrs. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 7828.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Sec. 1 and Sec. 8

By Mr. HERNÁNDEZ:

H.R. 7829.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 7830.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Mr. KENNEDY of Utah:

H.R. 7831.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: [The Congress shall have Power . . .] To make all

Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 7832.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV Section 3, clause 2

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY:

H.R. 7833.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article. IV. Section. 3. Clause 2. "The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all of the needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or the Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State."

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By Ms. LEE of Florida:

H.R. 7834.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Ms. LETLOW:

H.R. 7835.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, of the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 7836.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4 provides Congress with the power to establish a "uniform rule of Naturalization."

By Mr. MEUSER:

H.R. 7837.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MILLS:

H.R. 7838.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. MIN:

H.R. 7839.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. MOORE of Utah:

H.R. 7840.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Ms. MORRISON:

H.R. 7841.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution states that "Congress shall have the authority to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department of Office thereof."

By Mr. OGLES:

H.R. 7842.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 7843.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 7844.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 7845.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. RULLI:

H.R. 7846.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. SMUCKER:

H.R. 7847.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SORENSEN:

H.R. 7848.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mrs. SPARTZ:

H.R. 7849.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mrs. SPARTZ:

H.R. 7850.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mrs. SPARTZ:

H.R. 7851.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. STEVENS:

H.R. 7852.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 7853.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

For citation to a clause or section in an article of the original Constitution: Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Ms. TLAIB:

H.R. 7854.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 7855.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States; . . .

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:

H.R. 7856.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:

H.R. 7857.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 7858.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of Rule XII the following statement is submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the U.S. Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 7859.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: [The Congress shall have Power . . .] To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 116: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 128: Mr. SHREVE.
H.R. 173: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 210: Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. MCGARVEY.
H.R. 251: Mr. PERRY and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 301: Ms. ELFRETH.
H.R. 425: Mr. MEUSER.
H.R. 491: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 492: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 569: Mr. PATRONIS and Mr. PERRY.
H.R. 637: Mr. EZELL, Mr. THANEDAR, and Mr. BEGICH.
H.R. 868: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 879: Mrs. MCBATH.
H.R. 924: Mr. LATIMER.
H.R. 1004: Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 1065: Mr. LICCARDO.
H.R. 1178: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
H.R. 1189: Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 1237: Mr. GRAVES.
H.R. 1241: Mr. PERRY.
H.R. 1246: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 1260: Ms. ELFRETH.
H.R. 1284: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 1330: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 1505: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H.R. 1542: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 1548: Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 1582: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 1592: Mr. GRAVES.
H.R. 1628: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.
H.R. 1657: Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 1707: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.
H.R. 1732: Ms. BARRAGAN and Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 1810: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 1845: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 1877: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 2086: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania and Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 2089: Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 2129: Mr. LATIMER.
H.R. 2166: Mr. GROTHMAN and Mr. MCGUIRE.
H.R. 2192: Ms. MCCLELLAN.
H.R. 2362: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 2467: Mr. NORCROSS and Mr. ESPAILLAT.
H.R. 2477: Mr. HILL of Arkansas.
H.R. 2509: Ms. PETTERSEN.
H.R. 2547: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 2581: Ms. STEFANIK.
H.R. 2598: Mr. LARSEN of Washington and Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 2705: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 2767: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 2797: Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 2854: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 3067: Ms. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 3101: Mr. LATIMER.
H.R. 3144: Ms. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 3151: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 3178: Mr. TORRES of New York.
H.R. 3184: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois and Mr. LATIMER.
H.R. 3199: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 3350: Mr. ISSA.
H.R. 3353: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 3469: Mr. McDOWELL and Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 3608: Mr. VAN ORDEN.

H.R. 4002: Mr. HURD of Colorado.
 H.R. 4004: Ms. KAPTUR.
 H.R. 4093: Mr. SMUCKER.
 H.R. 4199: Mr. HARRIGAN.
 H.R. 4453: Mr. LATIMER.
 H.R. 4456: Mr. LATIMER.
 H.R. 4487: Mr. OLSZEWSKI.
 H.R. 4500: Mr. MASSIE.
 H.R. 4509: Mr. TRAN.
 H.R. 4606: Mrs. MCBATH.
 H.R. 4640: Mr. PAPPAS.
 H.R. 4703: Mr. LATIMER.
 H.R. 4712: Ms. FEDORCHAK.
 H.R. 4731: Ms. TENNEY, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
 H.R. 4782: Ms. PEREZ.
 H.R. 4837: Mr. OWENS.
 H.R. 4982: Mrs. KIM.
 H.R. 5031: Ms. LEE of Nevada.
 H.R. 5073: Mr. LATIMER.
 H.R. 5269: Mr. OWENS.
 H.R. 5271: Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. MOSKOWITZ.
 H.R. 5309: Mr. RASKIN.
 H.R. 5463: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
 H.R. 5468: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 5490: Mr. PFLUGER.
 H.R. 5536: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
 H.R. 5588: Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, and Mr. LATIMER.
 H.R. 5589: Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, and Ms. STEFANIK.
 H.R. 5603: Mr. LATIMER.
 H.R. 5621: Mr. CARSON.
 H.R. 5641: Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. LATIMER.
 H.R. 5642: Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, and Mr. LATIMER.
 H.R. 5643: Mr. LATIMER.
 H.R. 5653: Mr. LATIMER.
 H.R. 5657: Mr. MIN.
 H.R. 5907: Mr. BERA.
 H.R. 5941: Mr. LATIMER.
 H.R. 5973: Mr. LATIMER.
 H.R. 6035: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.
 H.R. 6126: Mr. MOULTON.
 H.R. 6225: Mr. BRECHEEN.
 H.R. 6347: Mr. KEAN.
 H.R. 6389: Mr. LATIMER.
 H.R. 6397: Mr. LATIMER.
 H.R. 6509: Mr. McDOWELL.

H.R. 6527: Mr. SOTO.
 H.R. 6597: Mr. COURTNEY.
 H.R. 6601: Mr. MAGAZINER.
 H.R. 6677: Ms. BARRAGAN.
 H.R. 6723: Mr. MCGARVEY.
 H.R. 6766: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. LATIMER, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. LIEU, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 6962: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
 H.R. 7033: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia and Mr. NORCROSS.
 H.R. 7071: Mr. LATIMER.
 H.R. 7086: Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 7146: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
 H.R. 7163: Mr. LATIMER.
 H.R. 7184: Mrs. HOUGHIN.
 H.R. 7229: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.
 H.R. 7287: Mrs. FISCHBACH.
 H.R. 7300: Mr. GROTHMAN and Mr. MOOLENAAR.
 H.R. 7322: Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 7346: Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. LIEU, and Mr. LATIMER.
 H.R. 7352: Mr. BACON.
 H.R. 7354: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
 H.R. 7380: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 7398: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 7410: Mr. LATIMER and Mr. TONKO.
 H.R. 7417: Mrs. MCBATH.
 H.R. 7460: Mr. RILEY of New York.
 H.R. 7480: Ms. SCANLON.
 H.R. 7481: Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. LATIMER, Mr. MFUME, Mr. NEAL, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
 H.R. 7521: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
 H.R. 7526: Ms. SALINAS.
 H.R. 7543: Mr. TORRES of New York.
 H.R. 7556: Mrs. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 7583: Ms. OMAR.
 H.R. 7612: Mr. CARTER of Georgia and Ms. TENNEY.
 H.R. 7613: Ms. MCBRIDE.
 H.R. 7622: Ms. MACE, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. VINDMAN, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. PFLUGER, and Mr. LALOTA.
 H.R. 7640: Mr. FRY and Mr. TIFFANY.
 H.R. 7651: Mr. COLLINS.
 H.R. 7657: Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 7675: Mr. LAWLER, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. BAIRD.

H.R. 7678: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
 H.R. 7685: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.
 H.R. 7728: Ms. OMAR.
 H.R. 7736: Ms. SIMON, Mr. LATIMER, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
 H.R. 7740: Mr. LATIMER.
 H.R. 7749: Mr. NEGUSE and Mr. ROSE.
 H.R. 7758: Mrs. KIM and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 7766: Ms. OMAR.
 H.R. 7802: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. LATIMER, and Mr. NORCROSS.
 H. Con. Res. 12: Mr. FIELDS.
 H. Res. 100: Mr. LEVIN.
 H. Res. 168: Mr. MORELLE, Ms. DEXTER, and Mr. MOULTON.
 H. Res. 381: Ms. FEDORCHAK.
 H. Res. 776: Mr. LEVIN and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
 H. Res. 998: Mr. SCHMIDT.
 H. Res. 1013: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. TAKANO, and Ms. BARRAGÁN.
 H. Res. 1058: Mr. LATIMER.
 H. Res. 1074: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H. Res. 1106: Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MFUME, Ms. BYNUM, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. DEXTER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. PLASKETT, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. PETTERSEN.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS—

ADDITIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petitions:

Petition 11 by Mrs. LUNA on House Resolution 725: Mr. Menefee.

Petition 15 by Ms. PRESSLEY on House Resolution 965: Ms. Velázquez, Mr. Deluzio, Ms. Brownley, Mr. Lawler, Mr. Vindman, Mr. Garcia of California, Mr. Gottheimer, Mr. Aguilar, Mr. Swalwell, Mr. Veasey, and Mr. Mannion.



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No. 42

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, Your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature. Make us always thankful for Your prevailing providence, matchless wisdom, and precious love. Enable us to remember the account we must one day give to You.

Lord, empower the Members of this body to be faithful stewards of Your good gifts. May they use their influence and power to bring glory to Your Name in all the Earth. Inspire them to live lives that provide exemplary models of excellence, integrity, and faith for others to follow.

And Lord, protect our military people in harm's way.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MULLIN). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

HOUSING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 6644, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6644) to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Scott (SC)/Warren Amendment No. 4308, in the nature of a substitute.

Thune (for Scott (SC)/Warren) Amendment No. 4307 (to Amendment No. 4308), to require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress studies on workforce housing, housing for persons who are elderly or disabled, proximity of housing to Superfund sites, and residential heirs property.

Thune Amendment No. 4310 (to Amendment No. 4307), to change the enactment date.

Thune Amendment No. 4311 (to the text proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 4308), to change the enactment date.

Thune Amendment No. 4312 (to Amendment No. 4311), of a perfecting nature.

Thune motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, with instructions, Amendment No. 4313, to change the enactment date.

Thune Amendment No. 4314 (to the instructions of the motion to commit), of a perfecting nature.

Thune Amendment No. 4315 (to Amendment No. 4314), of a perfecting nature.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

HONORING ARMY RESERVE SOLDIERS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Last night, we received the sad news that two more Army Reserve soldiers from the 103rd

Sustainment Command, based out of Des Moines, IA, were killed in Kuwait amid Operation Epic Fury. That includes MAJ Jeffrey O'Brien, who is from Indianola, and he has family in Waukee, IA.

Their heroism should be remembered forever. These soldiers represent the best of Iowa and the best of the United States. We should never forget their sacrifice and their service. Barbara and I are praying for their loved ones in this time of grief, and we also pray for the safety of all soldiers serving in harm's way.

H.R. 6644

Mr. President, on another matter, before the U.S. Senate now is what we call a housing bill.

Every year, as I travel to all of Iowa's 99 counties, I do that to connect with constituents and to understand Iowans' needs of their various communities across our State. Whether the community I visit is large, small, or rural, all regularly express concerns with the lack of affordable housing. So you can understand why I am excited that the Senate, after a long period of time, is finally working to pass the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act.

I want to emphasize that this is the most significant housing package to be considered by Congress in decades. This bipartisan bill includes a wide range of proposals focused on increasing housing supply by cutting redtape and unlocking private capital. It updates Federal housing laws and empowers communities to address local housing needs. Most importantly, it includes—this is most important because Iowa is a rural State—the bill includes key reforms to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's rural housing service programs that will preserve and expand affordable housing operations in Iowa's rural communities and throughout rural United States.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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CORRECTION

S855

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO CLAUDIA KOSTEL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin today, I would like to take a moment to honor Claudia Kostel, the Senate's chief counsel for employment, who is retiring this month after serving this institution for more than 25 years.

Senators may get the limelight, but we wouldn't last a day without our staffs, and they also wouldn't last a day without the many institutional staff who keep the Senate functioning—people like Claudia.

For more than 25 years, Claudia has provided Senators and staff alike with counsel on employment and labor law. She is known for providing scrupulously nonpartisan, high-quality legal advice and for maintaining the highest standards for her own work and that of her office.

She is also known as a mentor to—and an advocate for—her employees and is the kind of leader who, in the words of one staffer, “never asks others to do what she is not willing to do.”

And in addition to providing the highest quality legal advice, she also keeps writing standards high, with one coworker noting:

She never met a draft she couldn't make tighter or a brief she couldn't shorten.

As I said, Claudia has served the Senate for more than 25 years. Only the second chief counsel for employment in the Senate's history, she served under seven Secretaries of the Senate and has been witness to a lot of history. It is hard to overstate the value of that.

She doesn't just bring legal acumen and a commitment to excellence; she also brings a tremendous amount of institutional memory and institutional knowledge. We are lucky to have public servants like her who are willing to dedicate so much of their working life to this institution.

Claudia, my warmest congratulations on your retirement, and thank you for your service.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. President, it is another Thursday here in the Senate, and it should be just another payday for employees at the Department of Homeland Security, but thanks to Democrats' shutdown, a lot of DHS employees are only receiving a partial paycheck today. Democrats will have an opportunity to fix that this afternoon.

Republicans will again try to pass legislation to fund DHS so employees can get paid and DHS can operate at full capacity, but I suspect Democrats will once again oppose this common-

sense measure. And having kept DHS shut down now for 3 weeks and counting, Democrats will once again leave Washington today and head to the airport, where they will walk past some of the 50,000 TSA agents who are missing part of their pay because of Senate Democrats.

One TSA agent told CNN recently, “You're going to see TSA officers in the food bank lines in a couple of days,” and he noted that several of his colleagues have taken out payday loans.

And it is not just the TSA. Civilian Coast Guard employees, FEMA employees, cyber security professionals, and others are missing pay because of Democrats' shutdown.

Like Democrats' first shutdown, a few months ago, this shutdown is causing a lot of financial stress, uncertainty, and pain for hard-working Americans. It is also making it harder for those working to keep America safe.

Right now, less than half of the Americans who work for the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency are on the job. Think about that. The rest have been furloughed, and the Agency has had to cancel vulnerability checks on certain infrastructure.

Now, you would think that that might raise some concern among Democrats, especially given the current threat environment, but, apparently, it doesn't.

The FEMA GO system, which is how State and local governments and other grantees access funding that they have been awarded, is offline. So grantees can't access the funds that they need for critical programs in their communities.

Officials report that the Disaster Relief Fund is being “rapidly depleted,” which jeopardizes our ability to support disaster recovery efforts and respond to future emergencies. And a number of American cities that are hosting World Cup games, in a few months, are concerned about funding for security preparations being frozen due to Democrats' shutdown.

This is the second time in 6 months that Democrats have subjected thousands of workers to the pain and uncertainty of a government shutdown, and like their record-setting 43-day shutdown in the fall, this DHS shutdown is entirely unnecessary.

Just to review, we had a bipartisan agreement in January that included deescalation training for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, as well as \$20 million for body cameras for ICE officers. When Democrats decided that wasn't enough, Republicans and the White House agreed to reopen negotiations. We understood that negotiations take time, and we wanted to ensure that Federal employees would not be impacted by this ongoing work. So we suggested a temporary funding extension for several weeks to allow the negotiations to continue. Democrats in-

sisted on no more than 2—2—weeks, and when those 2 weeks came and went without an agreement, we tried to get another temporary extension through. Again, Democrats blocked it.

Here we are, 3 weeks later, and Democrats, apparently, don't care that a whole lot of Federal employees are working without pay—Federal employees, I might add, who have nothing to do—nothing to do—with immigration enforcement—FEMA, TSA, cyber security offices.

Let's be clear. This is not some principled stand by Democrats in the face of a refusal to negotiate—not at all. Republicans are at the table and have been now for weeks. The White House sent a very serious offer to Democrats almost a week ago. It is Democrats who don't seem to be interested in reaching an agreement.

In fact, from where I stand, it is looking a lot like Democrats just want to keep this alive as a political issue. If Democrats were really interested in putting reforms in place, they would be doing everything they can to get a bill, but they are not. They are interested in politics, not policy.

And if public safety ends up suffering as a result of their decision to shut down the Department of Homeland Security, if hard-working Americans have to go without paychecks, well, apparently, that is just fine with Senate Democrats.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

FOOD COSTS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I just came back from an event at the National Press Club, hosted by the American Economic Liberties Project, on the plague of high food costs that are maddening to so many Americans. People are fed up.

Donald Trump promised to bring food costs down, and instead, they have gone up.

Last month, the Secretary of Agriculture said:

It can cost around \$3 a meal for a piece of chicken, a piece of broccoli, a corn tortilla, and one other thing.

This is nonsense. So this morning, as part of Democrats' lowering costs agenda, I was proud to join my colleagues to introduce the Family Grocery and Farmer Relief Act.

There are many reasons why food costs have risen, including Trump's tariffs, including supply chain problems, but there is a deeper structural problem under the surface too—monopoly power.

A handful of powerful corporations have turned food and farming into a rigged game. Today, only four companies control 85 percent of the market for beef, 67 percent of the market for pork, and 60 percent of the market for poultry. When so much market power is concentrated within so few corporations, Americans at the grocery store see prices go up while farmers see their profits go down, and corporate players have free reign to rig the system.

Today, a pound of ground beef is more expensive than ever at \$7 a pound. The price of beef in general has risen 16 percent in just a year, to \$6 a pound. This is not sustainable.

So my bill rests on a simple idea: To lower costs, we need more competition, and to create more competition, we have to break the stranglehold of these monopoly corporations. We have done it before; we can do it again. Fighting monopoly power is a tried-and-true tradition in the American ethos of progress.

Over 120 years ago, Upton Sinclair published "The Jungle," and it opened the eyes of the Nation to working conditions in meatpacking plants and to the awful monopoly powers that dominated the industry.

Soon after, the FTC was created—the Federal Trade Commission—to investigate monopolies and anti-competitive behavior that raised prices and made it harder for small and medium businesses to compete and thrive.

A few years after that, the Congress responded to these findings by passing the Packers and Stockyards Act, which curbed the power of the meatpacking giants and gave the Federal Government tools to restore competition and protect producers.

Well, history is repeating itself. Those monopolies are dominating the food industry—and particularly the meat industry—as they did 120 years ago, and we should follow the path that occurred back then when we curbed the power of monopolies. We have to do the same in our day and age, and history gives us a great example.

Americans love the free market and open competition, but they don't love it when just one or two companies can dominate an industry and make fair competition impossible. That is not American. That is not a free market. That is how costs go up for something as basic as a pound of ground beef.

Our bill will break the monopoly power that has played a sinister role in raising the prices of beef and groceries, and I thank my colleagues who have joined in this legislation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS TO S. 4007

I will ask unanimous consent to add the list of cosponsors. It keeps growing.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Joining Leader SCHUMER are the following members:

Cosponsors: BOOKER, WELCH, WARREN, SANDERS, GALLEGO, MERKLEY, SCHATZ, DURBIN, MARKEY, KIM, MURPHY, and WHITEHOUSE.

TARIFF REFUNDS

Mr. SCHUMER. Now on tariff refunds, yesterday, a Federal judge sent the Trump administration a very clear message: Mr. President, refund the tariffs.

In the wake of the Supreme Court's ruling invalidating a large portion of the President's tariffs, the U.S. Court of International Trade in New York said yesterday that importers are entitled to refunds. But let's be very clear: The people who deserve a refund from Donald Trump's trade war are American households and small businesses, not large corporations.

When the tariffs hit, large companies often passed the buck over to their customers. They are the ones—the customers are the ones who are owed the refund. So today, Senator WYDEN and I are calling on the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to tell their members to pass savings of any tariff refunds to American consumers. If any refunds happen, large companies should not keep them but, rather, pass them back to consumers.

It is simple fairness that the financial burden borne by small businesses and working people should not become a windfall for large corporations' balance sheets. American consumers and small businesses didn't choose this trade war and therefore should not have to pay for this trade war. They are owed a refund. They need to be made whole.

I am glad that some companies have already announced they will pass refunds over to customers, and I urge the Chamber of Commerce to push more of their members to do the same.

IRAN

Mr. President, finally, on Iran, yesterday was a disappointing and low moment for the U.S. Senate. With war in the Middle East escalating by the day, Senate Republicans chose to get behind Trump's military escapades despite overwhelming opposition from the American people. Shameful. Americans don't want war—not Republican voters, not Independents, not even many of Donald Trump's MAGA base. They feel betrayed by what is happening in the Middle East, and they feel betrayed by the Senators in this Chamber who refuse to stand up for the Constitution and refuse to put a check on Donald Trump's belligerence.

The war is widening. There was fighting as far south as the Indian Ocean and drone attacks, perhaps as far north as Azerbaijan. Meanwhile, there is no strategy. Donald Trump's story and rationales keep changing by the day.

If you listen to Pete Hegseth, to Marco Rubio, to Donald Trump, it is very, very obvious they are making it up as they go along, and Americans are worried. Gas prices are starting to go up. The national average is now \$3.25 a gallon, up from \$2.99 from a week ago.

There is a story in POLITICO from this morning that Susie Wiles, Donald Trump's Chief of Staff, is "[sounding] the alarm on gas prices." Apparently,

the White House is scrambling to find something positive to say about gas prices to change the narrative of high costs. Here is an idea: If Donald Trump doesn't want gas prices to go up, he should not have unilaterally started a war with Iran. It is yet another sign that this administration seems allergic to having a plan and thinking about the consequences in advance.

So shame—shame on Senate Republicans for not standing up to Donald Trump and his unpopular war. Senate Republicans had their chance to do something that would have been overwhelmingly popular—to say no to Trump's war. Instead, they enthusiastically said yes, and now they own this war with Iran just as much as Donald Trump does.

TRIBUTE TO CLAUDIA KOSTEL

Mr. President, finally, a farewell. Today, the Senate bids farewell and offers our deep thanks to Claudia Kostel, who leads the Office of the Senate Chief Counsel for Employment and who has served this institution with distinction since 2000. After more than 26 years, Claudia will be moving on to her next adventure. The Senate is lucky to have had someone of her caliber for so long.

Claudia earned her law degree from the College of William & Mary. She has briefed cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and before the Third, Tenth, and DC Circuits.

In the Senate, Claudia is only the second person ever to have served as chief counsel for employment. In that role, she has provided exceptional legal advice and counsel to Senate offices and to Senate employees. She has served with excellence, fairness, and an unwavering commitment to this institution.

We hope this next chapter affords Claudia perhaps a little more time—time to ride her bike along the Mount Vernon Trail, time to put her legendary baking skills to even greater use, and most importantly, time with her family.

Claudia, thank you for your service to the Senate. We wish you the very best.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today having just listened to the minority leader talk about a number of topics. What he didn't talk about is the fact that his party has shut down the Department of Homeland Security.

There is a poll that is out by Gallup, and it says: What is very important in terms of U.S. foreign policy goals? And

the No. 1 thing is to prevent future acts of international terrorism.

Well, how do we prevent it? Who is it in this country that counters the terrorism? It is the Department of Homeland Security, which the Democrats—and they are going to have to vote again today—are likely, as they have announced, to vote to keep it shut down. That is a betrayal of the American people.

He used the word “betrayal.” To me, that is where it fits—with what actions the Democrats are likely to take today.

What is the No. 2 very important purpose of U.S. foreign policy as a goal from the Gallup poll of the American people? No. 2 is preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction.

So what did we hear the minority leader talk about? His opposition to the efforts to show peace through strength and undermine the ability of Iran to develop and use and deploy nuclear weapons. Once again, a betrayal by the Democrats of the American people.

Today, the Senate is going to vote on a bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security. This vital Department needs to be funded immediately. The Democrats have been blocking it for weeks. Protecting the American people is not optional. It is the first duty of government. For 3 weeks, the Democrats have held hostage the Department of Homeland Security. The Presiding Officer knows the reason. It is because the Democrats in this body and across the Capitol Building in the House of Representatives prioritize illegal immigrant criminals over American citizens, and they have done it repeatedly through their votes and their actions. Democrats have shut down the Department of Homeland Security because they want to end enforcement of our immigration laws and end immigration enforcement in America. They have been very clear about that. They refuse to fund the Department of Homeland Security because they want to turn America into a sanctuary country. That is where they are.

Those in this Chamber would rather oppose President Trump than protect the American people, and they have repeatedly shown it. Let me say it again: Senate Democrats would rather oppose President Trump than protect the American people. This shutdown is a cheap publicity stunt. They are doing it for the radical left, and it is, at the same time, a costly danger for our country and our citizens.

Now that America has struck Iran, the No. 1 threat to our homeland is the threat of terrorism. Last week, in Austin, TX, a lone-wolf terrorist opened fire in a crowded establishment, killing three Americans and wounding over a dozen more. The shooter was wearing a T-shirt. The T-shirt bore an Iranian flag, and it was under a sweatshirt that said “Property of Allah.”

The warning lights are flashing red. Look, we know that Iran exports its

terror abroad. They have been doing it for the last 10 years with the \$56 billion that Barack Obama and the Democrats gave to the Ayatollah 10 years ago.

For 4 years, Joe Biden and the Democrats opened the border, and we don't know who is in our country today. When Joe Biden was in office, 1,500 illegal immigrants from Iran were arrested at the southern border. Do you know what the Democrats then did? They released half of them into the United States. This was what was known as the Democrats' catch-and-release program. Who are they? Where are they? What are they doing today? No one knows. And these are just the people that we know about that were released into the country. Think about the thousands and thousands of “got-aways” during the time Joe Biden was President of the United States. They are in communities in all 50 States. Iran's tentacles stretch all the way to small communities in our Nation.

Now, the Department of Homeland Security is warning law enforcement nationwide about the elevated risk and threat from lone-wolf attacks like we saw in Texas last weekend, and yet at this very moment today, Democrats in this Chamber are continuing to block the funding for the very Agency that is tasked with stopping these terrorist attacks.

Senator CHRIS MURPHY, a Democrat from Connecticut, said funding for the Department of Homeland Security is—his word—“ridiculous.” That is the way the Democrats perceive this. I will tell you what is ridiculous. What is ridiculous is to shut down the Agency responsible for finding the terrorists in this country and stopping them before they act. That is what we are dealing with. It is ridiculous to refuse to pay the men and women who protect our homeland. That is what the Democrats are doing. It is ridiculous to cripple our cyber defense. That is what the Democrats are doing and continue to do.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, which is part of the Department of Homeland Security—they protect our Nation's critical infrastructure, including our energy infrastructure. CHUCK SCHUMER was on the floor talking about energy. Why isn't he protecting our energy infrastructure in this country? Why is he continuing to make it vulnerable to attacks? It is awful what they are doing. Today, only 800 of over 2,000 employees are on the job in this Department, and they are working without pay. The others have been furloughed due to the Democrat shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security. And because of this shutdown, the Agency has canceled both physical and cyber security assessments to detect vulnerabilities within our system.

No wonder we are on high alert. We need to be on high alert because of the Democrats who have put us there. This is a direct threat to our Nation's security. Shutting down the Department of Homeland Security, as Democrats in

this Chamber have done repeatedly, makes our country less safe and makes our citizens more vulnerable. But I expect to see, when the Democrats come in, them once again continue to keep the Department of Homeland Security shut down.

As the Presiding Officer knows, Republicans tried to negotiate with the Democrats in good faith. The President has sent offers to the Democrats to say: Look, let's be reasonable here. Open the Department of Homeland Security. Yet, they refuse. They cling to their love of illegal immigrant criminals rather than to the love of this Nation and the safety and security of the people here.

This is all about safety, national strength, and national security. And the shutdown by the Democrats endangers each and every one of these as well as each and every American citizen. The next cyber attack on our homeland—Democrats are going to bear full responsibility. The next lone-wolf terrorist—Democrats will bear full responsibility. The next criminal who crosses the border illegally and kills an innocent American—fully on the Democrats. Blood will be on their hands because we don't have a functioning Department of Homeland Security that is funded with people on the ground in every position receiving their paychecks.

The Democrats seem to think it is a bargaining chip. American safety and security is not a bargaining chip, and I am going to vote with my Republican colleagues today to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security without delay.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Texas.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, there is an old saying that you can tell a lot about a person by who their friends are. It is also the case you can tell a lot about a person by who their friends are not, and this could easily be said about many within the Democratic Party at this time.

It continues to amaze me the way that the widespread phenomenon of Trump derangement syndrome has led many Democrats to take what is so obviously the wrong side on almost every occasion. This pattern of behavior touches on matters across the policy spectrum, from refusal to participate in patriotic celebrations to deliberately siding with some of the worst human beings on the planet.

This bizarre conduct was on full display a few weeks ago at the President's

State of the Union when many Democrats couldn't even find it within themselves to stand up and celebrate the U.S. Olympic hockey team who had just won a gold medal in an epic victory against our neighborhood to the north.

Very, very strange.

But this refusal to celebrate the victory of the U.S. men's hockey team was not limited to the State of the Union: Somehow the Trump derangement syndrome has sustained an entire internet controversy around this group of young hockey players who should be celebrated by all Americans, regardless of politics.

The fact that Democrats are incapable of checking their politics at the door on literally any topic speaks volumes about their mindset.

Now, it is only common sense—and this has been something that has happened since Ronald Reagan first started recognizing individuals for their accomplishments and their patriotism in the audience at the State of the Union. It is only common sense that President Trump would recognize these Olympic athletes who won the gold medal. It shouldn't have been controversial, but yet thanks to Trump derangement syndrome, it was. But this strange behavior doesn't stop with hockey.

We heard the same message loud and clear in January following Operation Absolute Resolve. President Trump pulled off an impressive feat, along with the incredible demonstration of professionalism and competence by the U.S. military, in apprehending Venezuelan dictator Nicolas Maduro in the dead of night, with no American lives lost in the operation.

Somehow, Democrats' response was reflexively to criticize the President for conducting what they called a violation of international law. But it is astounding to me that anyone who cares about law and norms would side with a dictator like Maduro. And the President was, in fact, enforcing U.S. law, making sure that this fugitive from justice was called to respond in Federal court in New York to an indictment that was issued against him for drug smuggling.

Maduro and his close associates conspired with the Sinaloa Cartel and Tren de Aragua, using their power to facilitate the flow of drugs into the United States and making themselves rich off of the trafficking profits. Maduro also gave America's enemies a foothold in the Western Hemisphere, including providing safe haven to Lebanese Hezbollah, partnering with Iran and Russia to evade U.S. sanctions, and partnering with China to procure military equipment and other tools used to repress the Venezuelan people.

Under his rule, the Government of Venezuela rapidly devolved from a democracy into an authoritarian dictatorship. How is it the very people who claim to care about democracy and protest in the street with signs that say "No Kings" are cheering, are siding

with a literal dictator in order to demonstrate their opposition to the democratically elected President of the United States just because his name happens to be Donald J. Trump? It makes no sense at all.

But the leftwing outrage goes on. We saw it again last week in response to Operation Epic Fury. President Trump and our brave military servicemembers successfully eliminated another dictator who literally murders his own people in the streets of Tehran, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ali Khamenei. Once again, the Islamic Republic of Iran, under his leadership, was far from a beacon of democracy and human rights, as I said.

The United Nations, which is not a model of courage when it comes to calling out abuses, has repeatedly found that his regime engaged in excessive use of force, systematic torture, enforced disappearances, and pervasive persecution of women and young girls.

Even the liberal bastion known as the Human Rights Watch has criticized his regime for persecution of religious minorities. While others have decried the widespread and systematic killings, imprisonment, and torture of civilian protesters, all this adds up to their status, the regime's status as the world's largest state sponsor of terror, funding the Houthis, Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Shia militias. We know the Houthis have attacked U.S. owned and operated ships passing through the Red Sea.

And Hezbollah, which has been estimated to receive 70 to 80 percent of the funds from Iran's patronage accounts, has repeatedly set up criminal operations in the United States and the Western Hemisphere.

And most significantly, Iran has long pursued nuclear weapons, maintaining a stockpile of uranium enriched up to 60 percent purity, just a step away from the 90 percent weapons-grade uranium.

After President Trump dealt a severe setback to Iran's nuclear sites through Operation Midnight Hammer, Iran quickly began to rebuild these sites, including ballistic missile facilities. If Iran were to obtain a nuclear weapon, it would massively destabilize the Middle East and cause substantial harm to U.S. security and threaten the very existence of our ally Israel.

President Trump has always been right in his long, repeated insistence that Iran must never—never—get a nuclear weapon. This world would be a safer and less violent place if the Islamic Republic of Iran fell tomorrow. And yet our friends across the aisle seem to want to side with the Iranian regime strangely.

The Democrat Party's favorite darling, mayor Zohran Mamdani of New York, condemned President Trump's "escalation" of this "illegal war of aggression." These are the same people that have American blood on their hands from the IEDs and roadside bombs that were used against our troops in the Middle East.

At the same time, many of Mayor Mamdani's own residents, with firsthand experience of the Iranian regime, lambasted him on social media for his defense of the Supreme Leader. It takes a delusional person to sympathize with these terrible dictators who are finally receiving the justice they deserve under President Trump.

But this is just the tip of the iceberg with regard to the madness that leftwing agitators will embrace in order to register their opposition to the President. As my colleagues here all know, we are currently in a partial government shutdown, with no path forward to passing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security.

Supposedly, this was to register their objection to immigration law enforcement by ICE, but this bill funds the Coast Guard. It funds the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Transportation Security Agency that operates at all of our airports.

We are one natural disaster away from a very severe emergency while FEMA is out of money, and while none of us enjoy waiting on the line at airports for security, defunding the workers who perform this essential service to keep us safe while we travel is nothing short of absurd.

Now, this comes on the heels of a record-long full government shutdown by our Democratic colleagues when so many of our essential workers were forced to work without pay. If Republicans pulled stunts like that to register their opposition to President Biden, you can only imagine what the media would do and say.

It speaks volumes about where our Democratic colleagues' true loyalties lie when we observe whom they are willing to cheer for and who was met with callous indifference.

This is not just my imagination, but Democrats are more willing to rally behind Nicolas Maduro and the Supreme Leader of Iran than to stand alongside of Republicans and show their appreciation for the U.S. men's hockey team.

And they would rather sustain a government shutdown than make sure that the men and women who keep our airports and skies safe have the resources that they need. I can't understand it.

President Trump, at the State of the Union, said these Democrats, at least the ones who were in the Chamber at the State of the Union, were crazy. Certainly, they are misguided, and they need to come to their senses.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, today marks the 20th day of what has been a

completely unnecessary, incredibly harmful, and politically motivated shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security, an Agency whose core is to protect our citizens from terrorism, from crime, from cyber risk, and from natural disasters.

The question is, Why are we here? Why is the entire government not open?

We find ourselves at this moment because my colleagues on the other side of the aisle oppose our efforts to clean up the immigration crisis that they created. This is purely about politics, not policy.

At a moment when global tensions are high and President Trump is rightly carrying out a strategic operation in the Middle East to make America more secure, it is more important than ever to ensure that the Agency tasked with defending our homeland remains fully funded and fully operational without delay.

The situation in Iran has direct ties to the security of our southern border. Think about it. More than 1,500 Iranian nationals were detained trying to enter this country illegally under President Biden. And do you know what? The Biden-Harris administration released about 50 percent of those individuals into our homeland, many of them with suspected ties to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, also known as the IRGC. If you think about this, the open border policies of the Biden-Harris administration brought these 1,500 Iranian nationals, and 750 of them were released into the interior of our homeland.

Those are the ones that we know were apprehended. We don't even know how many people from Iran—or other countries that have our worst interest at heart—invaded during the time our border was collapsed under President Biden.

There is a nonzero chance, clearly, that the feckless open border policies of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle let people in who want to do harm to America. We shouldn't sit back and just wait for something to happen.

We, as U.S. Senators, should lock arm in arm and fund the hundreds of thousands of dedicated men and women who fight every single day to keep our homeland safe. From our Coast Guard and TSA officers to cyber security officers and natural disaster first responders, these selfless Americans continue to show up for work to protect our country and carry out their duties, all while not knowing when their next paycheck will arrive. They are doing their jobs, and it is more than past time for Congress to do ours.

The legislation before us today is not new. It is the very same bipartisan agreement that this body negotiated and agreed upon just weeks ago. Yet, for the second time in 6 months, Democrats have chosen to obstruct necessary Federal funding rather than to negotiate in good faith.

Therefore, I have to ask my colleagues: What exactly are we waiting for? Are we waiting for our adversaries to exploit this inaction? Are we waiting for the next natural disaster to strike a vulnerable community? Are we waiting for a violent extremist attack to occur?

The American people are paying attention. The American people understand what is at stake.

Supporting this bill means funding the security of our airports, strengthening our borders, defending our critical infrastructure, and ensuring our Nation is prepared to respond to natural disasters the moment that they occur. Weakening those capabilities, especially during a time of heightened global tension, is beyond unacceptable. It is irresponsible.

Instead of allowing politics to undermine our national security, we should strengthen the various institutions that keep Americans safe. Ensuring the Department of Homeland Security has the resources it needs to properly function should be one of the most basic duties that we have as Members of Congress serving this Nation.

By voting in favor of this legislation today, we have the opportunity to lock arms as leaders and to do the right thing. That is why I would strongly encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill without delay. Let's do what is right for the citizens and take care of this great Nation right here at home.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGERTY). The Senator from Massachusetts.

CHILDREN AND TEENS' ONLINE PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, in a moment, I will ask unanimous consent that the Senate pass the Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act, or COPPA 2.0, bipartisan legislation that would finally update our children's online privacy law for the modern internet age.

More than 25 years ago, I passed the original Children's Online Privacy Protection Act. At that time, the internet looked very different than it does today. Only birds tweeted 25 years ago. TikTok was the sound that a clock made. But one thing that has not changed, children and teens deserve privacy, they deserve safety, and they deserve protection online.

Unfortunately, Big Tech's business model has evolved far faster than our laws. Today, the largest online platforms collect enormous amounts of personal data from the users, including from children and from teenagers. That data fuels an advertising machine designed to keep young people clicking, swiping, and scrolling for as long as possible.

These ads are big business for Big Tech. In 2022, the major Big Tech platforms earned nearly \$11 billion from U.S. users 17 and under. This model has

real consequences for the well-being of our young people—\$11 billion.

And we are facing a youth mental health crisis in this country, driven in part by social media platforms.

I have said these statistics on the floor before, but they bear repeating. According to the Centers for Disease Control, one in four teenage high school girls in the United States seriously considered suicide in 2023.

At least one in eight high school girls in the United States in 2023 attempted suicide. Among LGBTQ+ youth, the number is more than one in five who attempted suicide in 2023.

Congress has a responsibility to respond. COPPA 2.0 does exactly that. It brings our children's privacy law into the 21st century and gives young people and their families meaningful control over their personal information.

First, COPPA 2.0 bans targeted advertising to children and teenagers. The days of building detailed behavioral profiles on young people in order to serve them manipulative, hyperpersonalized ads—that era must come to an end. That is what we are talking about in this legislation here today—ending that era in our country.

Second, the legislation creates an “eraser” button, allowing children and teens and their parents to delete the personal data that platforms have collected about them.

Third, COPPA 2.0, the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act 2.0, establishes strong limits on the collection of personal information from minors. If a platform, for example, does not need a child's or a teen's data to provide the service, it should not be collecting that data in the first place.

These are simple, commonsense protections, and they have broad bipartisan support.

I am very, very proud to have worked over the last 3 years with my friend Senator CASSIDY from Louisiana on constructing this legislation and moving it to the floor here today. He is a physician, and he is someone who believes in preventive care. That is what this bill is today. It just avoids much of the harm that otherwise will be imposed upon teenagers and children in our country.

I also want to thank Chairman CRUZ, Ranking Member CANTWELL, and many other Members in this body who have helped move this legislation forward.

This effort has also been driven by parents, by advocates, by young people themselves—families who have experienced firsthand the harms that can result when online platforms prioritize profit over the safety of children.

Passing COPPA 2.0 today would represent the single most significant update to children's online privacy protections in a quarter of a century. It is long overdue. We know there is a crisis, and it would send a clear message that Congress is prepared to stand up to Big Tech and put the interests of kids and families first.

I would be remiss if I did not note what is happening across the Capitol

today. Even as the Senate works in a bipartisan manner to strengthen protections for children and teens online, the House Energy and Commerce Committee is marking up a weaker partisan version of this legislation. That proposal strips away key protections and undermines the strong bipartisan compromise that Members of this Chamber have worked for years to develop. The children in our country deserve better than a watered-down privacy bill in this online era. For kids in our country right now, online access is like oxygen for them. It is all day. It is every day. Yet we haven't updated the safety protections in 25 years.

I urge my colleagues in the House to set aside partisan differences and take up the Senate's bipartisan bill so that we can finally deliver meaningful online privacy protections for children and teenagers across our country. Young people and their families have waited long enough. That is what we will be voting on right now.

With that, I yield to my partner and my friend in this effort, the Senator from Louisiana, Senator CASSIDY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I thank Senator MARKEY.

Let me just point out that this continues Senator MARKEY's decades-long work on protecting children in this sort of environment, work which I have been privileged to join for the last couple of years. Every parent should know that their child can go online without being tracked, targeted, or taken advantage of.

Now every child, it seems, is using the internet for school, for connections, and just to look things up, but they shouldn't have to pay for that access with their personal information, particularly when the child doesn't understand the value of their personal information. They should not have their data collected, shared, or sold without their knowledge and consent and without the knowledge and consent of their parents.

That is why the Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act, COPPA 2.0, matters. It updates the rules for today's digital world and places protections where they belong—around our children. This bill gives families the confidence that their child can learn and connect and explore online safely.

Again, I thank Senator MARKEY for his collaboration on this.

Mr. MARKEY. I thank my friend for his consistent support in protecting teenagers and children in our country.

With that, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 304, S. 836.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 836) to amend the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 to strengthen protections relating to the online

collection, use, and disclosure of personal information of children and teens, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with amendments, as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are in boldfaced brackets, and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are in italic.)

S. 836

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Children and Teens’ Online Privacy Protection Act”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Online collection, use, disclosure, and deletion of personal information of children and teens.

Sec. 3. Study and reports of mobile and online application oversight and enforcement.

Sec. 4. GAO study.

Sec. 5. Severability.

SEC. 2. ONLINE COLLECTION, USE, DISCLOSURE, AND DELETION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION OF CHILDREN AND TEENS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1302 of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6501) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) OPERATOR.—The term ‘operator’—

“(A) means any person—

“(i) who, for commercial purposes, in interstate or foreign commerce operates or provides a website on the internet, an online service, an online application, or a mobile application; and

“(ii) who—

“(I) collects or maintains, either directly or through a service provider, personal information from or about the users of that website, service, or application;

“(II) allows another person to collect personal information directly from users of that website, service, or application (in which case, the operator is deemed to have collected the information); or

“(III) allows users of that website, service, or application to publicly disclose personal information (in which case, the operator is deemed to have collected the information); and

“(B) does not include any nonprofit entity that would otherwise be exempt from coverage under section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45).”;

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) the release of personal information collected from a child or teen by an operator for any purpose, except where the personal information is provided to a person other than an operator who—

“(i) provides support for the internal operations of the website, online service, online application, or mobile application of the operator, excluding any activity relating to individual-specific advertising to children or teens; and

“(ii) does not disclose or use that personal information for any other purpose; and”;

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by inserting “or teen” after “child” each place the term appears;

(ii) by striking “website or online service” and inserting “website, online service, online application, or mobile application”; and

(iii) by striking “actual knowledge” and inserting “actual knowledge or knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances”;

(3) by striking paragraph (8) and inserting the following:

“(8) PERSONAL INFORMATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘personal information’ means individually identifiable information about an individual collected online, including—

“(i) a first and last name;

“(ii) a home or other physical address including street name and name of a city or town;

“(iii) an e-mail address;

“(iv) a telephone number;

“(v) a Social Security number;

“(vi) any other identifier that the Commission determines permits the physical or online contacting of a specific individual;

“(vii) a persistent identifier that can be used to recognize a specific child or teen over time and across different websites, online services, online applications, or mobile applications, including but not limited to a customer number held in a cookie, an Internet Protocol (IP) address, a processor or device serial number, or unique device identifier, but excluding an identifier that is used by an operator solely for providing support for the internal operations of the website, online service, online application, or mobile application;

“(viii) a photograph, video, or audio file where such file contains a specific child's or teen's image or voice;

“(ix) geolocation information;

“(x) information generated from the measurement or technological processing of an individual's biological, physical, or physiological characteristics that is used to identify an individual, including—

“(I) fingerprints;

“(II) voice prints;

“(III) iris or retina imagery scans;

“(IV) facial templates;

“(V) deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) information; or

“(VI) gait; or

“(xi) information linked or reasonably linkable to a child or teen or the parents of that child or teen (including any unique identifier) that an operator collects online from the child or teen and combines with an identifier described in this subparagraph.

“(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ‘personal information’ shall not include an audio file that contains a child's or teen's voice so long as the operator—

“(i) does not request information via voice that would otherwise be considered personal information under this paragraph;

“(ii) provides clear notice of its collection and use of the audio file and its deletion policy in its privacy policy;

“(iii) only uses the voice within the audio file solely as a replacement for written words, to perform a task, or engage with a website, online service, online application, or mobile application, such as to perform a search or fulfill a verbal instruction or request; and

“(iv) only maintains the audio file long enough to complete the stated purpose and then immediately deletes the audio file and does not make any other use of the audio file prior to deletion.

“(C) SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNAL OPERATIONS OF A WEBSITE, ONLINE SERVICE, ONLINE APPLICATION, OR MOBILE APPLICATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(vii), the term ‘support for the internal operations of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application’ means those activities necessary to—

“(I) maintain or analyze the functioning of the website, online service, online application, or mobile application;

“(II) perform network communications;

“(III) authenticate users of, or personalize the content on, the website, online service, online application, or mobile application;

“(IV) serve contextual advertising, provided that any persistent identifier is only used as necessary for technical purposes to serve the contextual advertisement, or cap the frequency of advertising;

“(V) protect the security or integrity of the user, website, online service, online application, or mobile application;

“(VI) ensure legal or regulatory compliance, or

“(VII) fulfill a request of a child or teen as permitted by subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 1303(b)(2).

“(ii) CONDITION.—Except as specifically permitted under clause (i), information collected for the activities listed in clause (i) cannot be used or disclosed to contact a specific individual, including through individual-specific advertising to children or teens, to amass a profile on a specific individual, in connection with processes that encourage or prompt use of a website or online service, or for any other purpose.”;

(4) by amending paragraph (9) to read as follows:

“(9) VERIFIABLE CONSENT.—The term ‘verifiable consent’ means any reasonable effort (taking into consideration available technology), including a request for authorization for future collection, use, and disclosure described in the notice, to ensure that, in the case of a child, a parent of the child, or, in the case of a teen, the teen—

“(A) receives direct notice of the personal information collection, use, and disclosure practices of the operator; and

“(B) before the personal information of the child or teen is collected, freely and unambiguously authorizes—

“(i) the collection, use, and disclosure, as applicable, of that personal information; and

“(ii) any subsequent use of that personal information.”;

(5) in paragraph (10)—

(A) in the paragraph header, by striking “WEBSITE OR ONLINE SERVICE DIRECTED TO CHILDREN” and inserting “WEBSITE, ONLINE SERVICE, ONLINE APPLICATION, OR MOBILE APPLICATION DIRECTED TO CHILDREN”;

(B) by striking “website or online service” each place it appears and inserting “website, online service, online application, or mobile application”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—In considering whether a website, online service, online application, or mobile application, or portion thereof, is directed to children, the Commission shall apply a totality of circumstances test and will also consider competent and reliable empirical evidence regarding audience composition and evidence regarding the intended audience of the website, online service, online application, or mobile application.”; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

“(13) CONNECTED DEVICE.—The term ‘connected device’ means a device that is capable of connecting to the internet, directly or indirectly, or to another connected device.

“(14) ONLINE APPLICATION.—The term ‘online application’—

“(A) means an internet-connected software program; and

“(B) includes a service or application offered via a connected device.

“(15) MOBILE APPLICATION.—The term ‘mobile application’—

“(A) means a software program that runs on the operating system of—

“(i) a cellular telephone;

“(ii) a tablet computer; or

“(iii) a similar portable computing device that transmits data over a wireless connection; and

“(B) includes a service or application offered via a connected device.

“(16) GEOLLOCATION INFORMATION.—The term ‘geolocation information’ means information sufficient to identify a street name and name of a city or town.

“(17) TEEN.—The term ‘teen’ means an individual who has attained age 13 and is under the age of 17.

“(18) INDIVIDUAL-SPECIFIC ADVERTISING TO CHILDREN OR TEENS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘individual-specific advertising to children or teens’ means advertising or any other effort to market a product or service that is directed to a specific child or teen or a connected device that is linked or reasonably linkable to a child or teen based on—

“(i) the personal information from—

“(I) the child or teen; or

“(II) a group of children or teens who are similar in sex, age, household income level, race, or ethnicity to the specific child or teen to whom the product or service is marketed;

“(ii) profiling of a child or teen or group of children or teens; or

“(iii) a unique identifier of the connected device.

“(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘individual-specific advertising to children or teens’ shall not include—

“(i) advertising or marketing to an individual or the device of an individual in response to the individual’s specific request for information or feedback, such as a child’s or teen’s current search query;

“(ii) contextual advertising, such as when an advertisement is displayed based on the content of the website, online service, online application, mobile application, or connected device in which the advertisement appears and does not vary based on personal information related to the viewer; ~~or~~

~~“(iii) processing personal information solely for measuring or reporting advertising or content performance, reach, or frequency, including independent measurement.”~~

~~“(iii) processing personal information solely for measuring or reporting advertising or content performance, reach, or frequency, including independent measurement; or~~

~~“(iv) advertising or marketing directed to a connected device used by both adult and child or teen members of a household where such advertising or marketing is directed to the profile of the adult user.~~

“(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall be construed to prohibit an operator with actual knowledge or knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances that a user is under the age of 17 from delivering advertising or marketing that is age-appropriate and intended for a child or teen audience, so long as the operator does not use any personal information other than whether the user is under the age of 17.

“(19) EDUCATIONAL AGENCY OR INSTITUTION.—The term ‘educational agency or institution’ means—

“(A) a State educational agency or local educational agency, as such terms are defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801); or

“(B) an institutional day or residential school, including a public school (including a charter school) or private school, that provides elementary or secondary education, as determined under State law.”.

(b) ONLINE COLLECTION, USE, DISCLOSURE, AND DELETION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION OF CHILDREN AND TEENS.—Section 1303 of the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6502) is amended—

(1) by striking the heading and inserting the following: “**ONLINE COLLECTION, USE, DISCLOSURE, AND DELETION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION OF CHILDREN AND TEENS.**”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—It is unlawful for an operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application directed to children or for any operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application with actual knowledge or knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances that a user is a child or teen—

“(A) to collect personal information from a child or teen in a manner that violates the regulations prescribed under subsection (b);

“(B) except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 1302(18), to collect, use, disclose to third parties, or maintain personal information of a child or teen for purposes of individual-specific advertising to children or teens (or to allow another person to collect, use, disclose, or maintain such information for such purpose);

“(C) to collect the personal information of a child or teen except when the collection of the personal information is—

“(i) consistent with the context of a particular transaction or service or the relationship of the child or teen with the operator, including collection necessary to fulfill a transaction or provide a product or service requested by the child or teen; or

“(ii) required or specifically authorized by Federal or State law; or

“(D) to store or transfer the personal information of a child or teen outside of the United States unless the operator provides direct notice to the parent of the child, in the case of a child, or to the teen, in the case of a teen, that the child’s or teen’s personal information is being stored or transferred outside of the United States; or

“(E) to retain the personal information of a child or teen for longer than is reasonably necessary to fulfill a transaction or provide a service requested by the child or teen except as required or specifically authorized by Federal or State law.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the header, by striking “PARENT” and inserting ~~“PARENT OR TEEN”~~ “PARENT OR TEEN”;

(ii) by striking “Notwithstanding paragraph (1)” and inserting “Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(A)”;

(iii) by striking “of such a website or online service”; and

(iv) by striking “subsection (b)(1)(B)(iii) to the parent of a child” and inserting “subsection (b)(1)(B)(iv) to the parent of a child or under subsection (b)(1)(C)(iv) to a teen”;

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “operator of any website” and all that follows through “from a child” and inserting “operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application directed to children or that has actual knowledge or knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances that a user is a child or teen”;

(II) in clause (i)—

(aa) by striking “notice on the website” and inserting “clear and conspicuous notice on the website”;

(bb) by inserting “or teens” after “children”;

(cc) by striking “, and the operator’s” and inserting “, the operator’s”;

(dd) by striking “; and” and inserting “, the rights and opportunities available to the parent of the child or teen under subparagraphs (B) and (C), and the procedures or mechanisms the operator uses to ensure that personal information is not collected from children or teens except in accordance with the regulations promulgated under this paragraph”;

(III) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking “parental”;

(bb) by inserting “or teens” after “children”;

(cc) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting “; and”;

(IV) by inserting after clause (ii) the following new clause:

“(iii) to obtain verifiable consent from a parent of a child or from a teen before using or disclosing personal information of the child or teen for any purpose that is a material change from the original purposes and disclosure practices specified to the parent of the child or the teen under clause (i);”;

(i) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “website or online service” and inserting “operator”;

(II) in clause (i), by inserting “and the method by which the operator obtained the personal information, and the purposes for which the operator collects, uses, discloses, and retains the personal information” before the semicolon;

(III) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by inserting “to delete personal information collected from the child or content or information submitted by the child to a website, online service, online application, or mobile application and” after “the opportunity at any time”;

(bb) by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(IV) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv) and inserting after clause (ii) the following new clause:

“(iii) the opportunity to challenge the accuracy of the personal information and, if the parent of the child establishes the inaccuracy of the personal information, to have the inaccurate personal information corrected;”;

(V) in clause (iv), as so redesignated, by inserting “, if such information is available to the operator at the time the parent makes the request” before the semicolon;

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively;

(iv) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

“(C) require the operator to provide, upon the request of a teen under this subparagraph who has provided personal information to the operator, upon proper identification of that teen—

“(i) a description of the specific types of personal information collected from the teen by the operator, the method by which the operator obtained the personal information, and the purposes for which the operator collects, uses, discloses, and retains the personal information;

“(ii) the opportunity at any time to delete personal information collected from the teen or content or information submitted by the teen to a website, online service, online application, or mobile application and to refuse to permit the operator’s further use or maintenance in retrievable form, or online collection, of personal information from the teen;

“(iii) the opportunity to challenge the accuracy of the personal information and, if the teen establishes the inaccuracy of the personal information, to have the inaccurate personal information corrected; and

“(iv) a means that is reasonable under the circumstances for the teen to obtain any personal information collected from the teen, if such information is available to the operator at the time the teen makes the request;”;

(v) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated—

(I) by striking “a child’s” and inserting “a child’s or teen’s”;

(II) by inserting “or teen” after “the child”;

(vi) by amending subparagraph (E), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

“(E) require the operator to establish, implement, and maintain reasonable security practices to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and accessibility of personal information of children or teens collected by the operator, and to protect such personal information against unauthorized access.”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “verifiable parental consent” and inserting “verifiable consent”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by inserting “or teen” after “collected from a child”;

(II) by inserting “or teen” after “request from the child”;

(III) by inserting “or teen or to contact another child or teen” after “to recontact the child”;

(iii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking “parent or child” and inserting “parent or teen”;

(II) by striking “parental consent” each place the term appears and inserting “verifiable consent”;

(iv) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “or teen” after “child” each place the term appears;

(II) in clause (i)—

(aa) by inserting “or teen” after “child” each place the term appears;

(bb) by inserting “or teen, as applicable,” after “parent” each place the term appears;

(III) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking “without notice to the parent” and inserting “without notice to the parent or teen, as applicable,”;

(bb) by inserting “or teen” after “child” each place the term appears;

(v) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “or teen” after “child” each place the term appears;

(II) in clause (ii), by inserting “or teen” after “child”;

(III) in the flush text following clause (iii)—

(aa) by inserting “or teen, as applicable,” after “parent” each place the term appears;

(bb) by inserting “or teen” after “child”;

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4) and inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

“(3) APPLICATION TO OPERATORS ACTING UNDER AGREEMENTS WITH EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES OR INSTITUTIONS.—The regulations may provide that verifiable consent under paragraph (1)(A)(ii) is not required for an operator that is acting under a written agreement with an educational agency or institution that, at a minimum, requires the—

“(A) operator to—

“(i) limit its collection, use, and disclosure of the personal information from a child or teen to solely educational purposes and for no other commercial purposes;

“(ii) provide the educational agency or institution with a notice of the specific types of personal information the operator will collect from the child or teen, the method by which the operator will obtain the personal information, and the purposes for which the operator will collect, use, disclose, and retain the personal information;

“(iii) provide the educational agency or institution with a link to the operator’s online notice of information practices as required under subsection (b)(1)(A)(i); and

“(iv) provide the educational agency or institution, upon request, with a means to review the personal information collected from a child or teen, to prevent further use or maintenance or future collection of personal information from a child or teen, and to delete personal information collected from a child or teen or content or information submitted by a child or teen to the operator’s website, online service, online application, or mobile application;

“(B) representative of the educational agency or institution to acknowledge and agree that they have authority to authorize the collection, use, and disclosure of personal information from children or teens on behalf of the educational agency or institution, along with such authorization, their name, and title at the educational agency or institution; and

“(C) educational agency or institution to—

“(i) provide on its website a notice that identifies the operator with which it has entered into a written agreement under this subsection and provides a link to the operator’s online notice of information practices as required under paragraph (1)(A)(i);

“(ii) provide the operator’s notice regarding its information practices, as required under subparagraph (A)(ii), upon request, to a parent, in the case of a child, or a parent or teen, in the case of a teen; and

“(iii) upon the request of a parent, in the case of a child, or a parent or teen, in the case of a teen, request the operator provide a means to review the personal information from the child or teen and provide the parent, in the case of a child, or parent or teen, in the case of the teen, a means to review the personal information.”;

(D) by amending paragraph (4), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

“(4) TERMINATION OF SERVICE.—The regulations shall permit the operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application to terminate service provided to a child whose parent has refused, or a teen who has refused, under the regulations prescribed under paragraphs (1)(B)(ii) and (1)(C)(ii), to permit the operator’s further use or maintenance in retrievable form, or future online collection of, personal information from that child or teen.”;

(E) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(5) CONTINUATION OF SERVICE.—The regulations shall prohibit an operator from discontinuing service provided to a child or teen on the basis of a request by the parent of the child or by the teen, under the regulations prescribed under subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (1), respectively, to delete personal information collected from the child or teen, to the extent that the operator is capable of providing such service without such information.

“(6) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—A request made pursuant to subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (1) to delete or correct personal information of a child or teen shall not be construed—

“(A) to limit the authority of a law enforcement agency to obtain any content or information from an operator pursuant to a lawfully executed warrant or an order of a court of competent jurisdiction;

“(B) to require an operator or third party delete or correct information that—

“(i) any other provision of Federal or State law requires the operator or third party to maintain; or

“(ii) was submitted to the website, online service, online application, or mobile application of the operator by any person other than the user who is attempting to erase or otherwise eliminate the content or information, including content or information submitted by the user that was republished or resubmitted by another person; or

“(C) to prohibit an operator from—

“(i) retaining a record of the deletion request and the minimum information necessary for the purposes of ensuring compliance with a request made pursuant to subparagraph (B) or (C);

“(ii) preventing, detecting, protecting against, or responding to security incidents, identity theft, or fraud, or reporting those responsible for such actions;

“(iii) protecting the integrity or security of a website, online service, online application or mobile application; or

“(iv) ensuring that the child's or teen's information remains deleted.

“(7) COMMON VERIFIABLE CONSENT MECHANISM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—

“(i) FEASIBILITY OF MECHANISM.—The Commission shall assess the feasibility, with notice and public comment, of allowing operators the option to use a common verifiable consent mechanism that fully meets the requirements of this title.

“(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—The feasibility assessment described in clause (i) shall consider whether a single operator could use a common verifiable consent mechanism to obtain verifiable consent, as required under this title, from a parent of a child or from a teen on behalf of multiple, listed operators that provide a joint or related service.

“(B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Commission shall submit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives with the findings of the assessment required by subparagraph (A).

“(C) REGULATIONS.—If the Commission finds that the use of a common verifiable consent mechanism is feasible and would meet the requirements of this title, the Commission shall issue regulations to permit the use of a common verifiable consent mechanism in accordance with the findings outlined in such report.”;

(4) in subsection (c), by striking “a regulation prescribed under subsection (a)” and inserting “subparagraph (B), (C), (D), or (E) of subsection (a)(1), or of a regulation prescribed under subsection (b).”; and

(5) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

“(d) RELATIONSHIP TO STATE LAW.—The provisions of this title shall preempt any State law, rule, or regulation only to the extent that such State law, rule, or regulation conflicts with a provision of this title. Nothing in this title shall be construed to prohibit any State from enacting a law, rule, or regulation that provides greater protection to children or teens than the provisions of this title.”.

(c) SAFE HARBORS.—Section 1304 of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6503) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “and teens” after “children”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) PUBLICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the restrictions described in paragraph (2), the Commis-

sion shall publish on the internet website of the Commission any report or documentation required by regulation to be submitted to the Commission to carry out this section.

“(2) RESTRICTIONS ON PUBLICATION.—The restrictions described in section 6(f) and section 21 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 46(f), 57b-2) applicable to the disclosure of information obtained by the Commission shall apply in same manner to the disclosure under this subsection of information obtained by the Commission from a report or documentation described in paragraph (1).”.

(d) ACTIONS BY STATES.—Section 1305 of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6504) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “section 1303(a)(1) or” before “any regulation”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “section 1303(a)(1) or” before “the regulation”; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) by inserting “section 1303(a)(1) or” before “any regulation”; and

(B) by inserting “section 1303(a)(1) or” before “that regulation”.

(e) ADMINISTRATION AND APPLICABILITY OF ACT.—Section 1306 of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6505) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “, in the case of” and all that follows through “the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation;” and inserting the following: “by the appropriate Federal banking agency, with respect to any insured depository institution (as those terms are defined in section 3 of that Act (12 U.S.C. 1813));”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating paragraphs (3) through (6) as paragraphs (2) through (5), respectively;

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) by inserting “section 1303(a)(1) or” before “a rule”; and

(B) by striking “such rule” and inserting “section 1303(a)(1) or a rule of the Commission under section 1303”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(f) DETERMINATION OF WHETHER AN OPERATOR HAS KNOWLEDGE FAIRLY IMPLIED ON THE BASIS OF OBJECTIVE CIRCUMSTANCES.—

“(1) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of enforcing this title or a regulation promulgated under this title, in making a determination as to whether an operator has knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances that a specific user is a child or teen, the Commission or State attorneys general shall rely on competent and reliable evidence, taking into account the totality of the circumstances, including whether a reasonable and prudent person under the circumstances would have known that the user is a child or teen. Nothing in this title, including a determination described in the preceding sentence, shall be construed to require an operator to—

“(A) affirmatively collect any personal information with respect to the age of a child or teen that an operator is not already collecting in the normal course of business; or

“(B) implement an age gating or age verification functionality.

“(2) COMMISSION GUIDANCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Within 180 days of enactment, the Commission shall issue guidance to provide information, including best practices and examples for operators to understand the Commission's determination of whether an operator has knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances that a user is a child or teen.

“(B) LIMITATION.—No guidance issued by the Commission with respect to this title shall confer any rights on any person, State, or locality, nor shall operate to bind the Commission or any person to the approach recommended in such guidance. In any enforcement action brought pursuant to this title, the Commission or State attorney general, as applicable, shall allege a specific violation of a provision of this title. The Commission or State attorney general, as applicable, may not base an enforcement action on, or execute a consent order based on, practices that are alleged to be inconsistent with any such guidance, unless the practices allegedly violate this title. For purposes of enforcing this title or a regulation promulgated under this title, State attorneys general shall take into account any guidance issued by the Commission under subparagraph (A).

“(g) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.—Any regulations issued under this title shall include a description and analysis of the impact of proposed and final Rules on small entities per the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (5 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).”.

SEC. 3. STUDY AND REPORTS OF MOBILE AND ONLINE APPLICATION OVERSIGHT AND ENFORCEMENT.

(a) OVERSIGHT REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Trade Commission shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on the processes of platforms that offer mobile and online applications for ensuring that, of those applications that are websites, online services, online applications, or mobile applications directed to children, the applications operate in accordance with—

(1) this Act, the amendments made by this Act, and rules promulgated under this Act; and

(2) rules promulgated by the Commission under section 18 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a) relating to unfair or deceptive acts or practices in marketing.

(b) ENFORCEMENT REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and each year thereafter, the Federal Trade Commission shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that addresses, at a minimum—

(1) the number of actions brought by the Commission during the reporting year to enforce the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6501) (referred to in this subsection as the “Act”) and the outcome of each such action;

(2) the total number of investigations or inquiries into potential violations of the Act; during the reporting year;

(3) the total number of open investigations or inquiries into potential violations of the Act as of the time the report is submitted;

(4) the number and nature of complaints received by the Commission relating to an allegation of a violation of the Act during the reporting year; and

(5) policy or legislative recommendations to strengthen online protections for children and teens.

SEC. 4. GAO STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States (in this section referred to as the “Comptroller General”) shall conduct a study on the privacy of teens who use financial technology products. Such study shall—

(1) identify the type of financial technology products that teens are using;

(2) identify the potential risks to teens' privacy from using such financial technology products; and

(3) determine whether existing laws are sufficient to address such risks to teens' privacy.】

(a) *STUDY.*—The Comptroller General of the United States (in this section referred to as the "Comptroller General") shall conduct a study on the privacy and mental health of teens who use financial technology products. Such study shall—

(1) identify the type of financial technology products that teens are using;

(2) identify the potential risks to teens' privacy and mental health from using such financial technology products; and

(3) determine whether existing laws are sufficient to address such risks to teens' privacy and mental health.

(b) *REPORT.*—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of the study conducted under subsection (a), together with recommendations for such legislative and administrative action as the Comptroller General determines appropriate. **SEC. 5. SEVERABILITY.**

If any provision of this Act, or an amendment made by this Act, is determined to be unenforceable or invalid, the remaining provisions of this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall not be affected.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendments be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendments were agreed to.

The bill (S. 836), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 836

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the "Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act".

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Online collection, use, disclosure, and deletion of personal information of children and teens.
- Sec. 3. Study and reports of mobile and online application oversight and enforcement.
- Sec. 4. GAO study.
- Sec. 5. Severability.

SEC. 2. ONLINE COLLECTION, USE, DISCLOSURE, AND DELETION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION OF CHILDREN AND TEENS.

(a) *DEFINITIONS.*—Section 1302 of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6501) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) *OPERATOR.*—The term ‘operator’—

“(A) means any person—

“(i) who, for commercial purposes, in interstate or foreign commerce operates or provides a website on the internet, an online service, an online application, or a mobile application; and

“(ii) who—

“(I) collects or maintains, either directly or through a service provider, personal information from or about the users of that website, service, or application;

“(II) allows another person to collect personal information directly from users of that website, service, or application (in which case, the operator is deemed to have collected the information); or

“(III) allows users of that website, service, or application to publicly disclose personal information (in which case, the operator is deemed to have collected the information); and

“(B) does not include any nonprofit entity that would otherwise be exempt from coverage under section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45).”;

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) the release of personal information collected from a child or teen by an operator for any purpose, except where the personal information is provided to a person other than an operator who—

“(i) provides support for the internal operations of the website, online service, online application, or mobile application of the operator, excluding any activity relating to individual-specific advertising to children or teens; and

“(ii) does not disclose or use that personal information for any other purpose; and”;

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by inserting “or teen” after “child” each place the term appears;

(ii) by striking “website or online service” and inserting “website, online service, online application, or mobile application”; and

(iii) by striking “actual knowledge” and inserting “actual knowledge or knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances”;

(3) by striking paragraph (8) and inserting the following:

“(8) *PERSONAL INFORMATION.*—

“(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The term ‘personal information’ means individually identifiable information about an individual collected online, including—

“(i) a first and last name;

“(ii) a home or other physical address including street name and name of a city or town;

“(iii) an e-mail address;

“(iv) a telephone number;

“(v) a Social Security number;

“(vi) any other identifier that the Commission determines permits the physical or online contacting of a specific individual;

“(vii) a persistent identifier that can be used to recognize a specific child or teen over time and across different websites, online services, online applications, or mobile applications, including but not limited to a customer number held in a cookie, an Internet Protocol (IP) address, a processor or device serial number, or unique device identifier, but excluding an identifier that is used by an operator solely for providing support for the internal operations of the website, online service, online application, or mobile application;

“(viii) a photograph, video, or audio file where such file contains a specific child's or teen's image or voice;

“(ix) geolocation information;

“(x) information generated from the measurement or technological processing of an individual's biological, physical, or physiological characteristics that is used to identify an individual, including—

“(I) fingerprints;

“(II) voice prints;

“(III) iris or retina imagery scans;

“(IV) facial templates;

“(V) deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) information; or

“(VI) gait; or

“(xi) information linked or reasonably linkable to a child or teen or the parents of

that child or teen (including any unique identifier) that an operator collects online from the child or teen and combines with an identifier described in this subparagraph.

“(B) *EXCLUSION.*—The term ‘personal information’ shall not include an audio file that contains a child's or teen's voice so long as the operator—

“(i) does not request information via voice that would otherwise be considered personal information under this paragraph;

“(ii) provides clear notice of its collection and use of the audio file and its deletion policy in its privacy policy;

“(iii) only uses the voice within the audio file solely as a replacement for written words, to perform a task, or engage with a website, online service, online application, or mobile application, such as to perform a search or fulfill a verbal instruction or request; and

“(iv) only maintains the audio file long enough to complete the stated purpose and then immediately deletes the audio file and does not make any other use of the audio file prior to deletion.

“(C) *SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNAL OPERATIONS OF A WEBSITE, ONLINE SERVICE, ONLINE APPLICATION, OR MOBILE APPLICATION.*—

“(i) *IN GENERAL.*—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(vii), the term ‘support for the internal operations of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application’ means those activities necessary to—

“(I) maintain or analyze the functioning of the website, online service, online application, or mobile application;

“(II) perform network communications;

“(III) authenticate users of, or personalize the content on, the website, online service, online application, or mobile application;

“(IV) serve contextual advertising, provided that any persistent identifier is only used as necessary for technical purposes to serve the contextual advertisement, or cap the frequency of advertising;

“(V) protect the security or integrity of the user, website, online service, online application, or mobile application;

“(VI) ensure legal or regulatory compliance, or

“(VII) fulfill a request of a child or teen as permitted by subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 1303(b)(2).

“(ii) *CONDITION.*—Except as specifically permitted under clause (i), information collected for the activities listed in clause (i) cannot be used or disclosed to contact a specific individual, including through individual-specific advertising to children or teens, to amass a profile on a specific individual, in connection with processes that encourage or prompt use of a website or online service, or for any other purpose.”;

(4) by amending paragraph (9) to read as follows:

“(9) *VERIFIABLE CONSENT.*—The term ‘verifiable consent’ means any reasonable effort (taking into consideration available technology), including a request for authorization for future collection, use, and disclosure described in the notice, to ensure that, in the case of a child, a parent of the child, or, in the case of a teen, the teen—

“(A) receives direct notice of the personal information collection, use, and disclosure practices of the operator; and

“(B) before the personal information of the child or teen is collected, freely and unambiguously authorizes—

“(i) the collection, use, and disclosure, as applicable, of that personal information; and

“(ii) any subsequent use of that personal information.”;

(5) in paragraph (10)—

(A) in the paragraph header, by striking “WEBSITE OR ONLINE SERVICE DIRECTED TO CHILDREN” and inserting “WEBSITE, ONLINE

SERVICE, ONLINE APPLICATION, OR MOBILE APPLICATION DIRECTED TO CHILDREN”;

(B) by striking “website or online service” each place it appears and inserting “website, online service, online application, or mobile application”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—In considering whether a website, online service, online application, or mobile application, or portion thereof, is directed to children, the Commission shall apply a totality of circumstances test and will also consider competent and reliable empirical evidence regarding audience composition and evidence regarding the intended audience of the website, online service, online application, or mobile application.”; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

“(13) **CONNECTED DEVICE.**—The term ‘connected device’ means a device that is capable of connecting to the internet, directly or indirectly, or to another connected device.

“(14) **ONLINE APPLICATION.**—The term ‘online application’—

“(A) means an internet-connected software program; and

“(B) includes a service or application offered via a connected device.

“(15) **MOBILE APPLICATION.**—The term ‘mobile application’—

“(A) means a software program that runs on the operating system of—

“(i) a cellular telephone;

“(ii) a tablet computer; or

“(iii) a similar portable computing device that transmits data over a wireless connection; and

“(B) includes a service or application offered via a connected device.

“(16) **GEOLOCATION INFORMATION.**—The term ‘geolocation information’ means information sufficient to identify a street name and name of a city or town.

“(17) **TEEN.**—The term ‘teen’ means an individual who has attained age 13 and is under the age of 17.

“(18) **INDIVIDUAL-SPECIFIC ADVERTISING TO CHILDREN OR TEENS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term ‘individual-specific advertising to children or teens’ means advertising or any other effort to market a product or service that is directed to a specific child or teen or a connected device that is linked or reasonably linkable to a child or teen based on—

“(i) the personal information from—

“(I) the child or teen; or

“(II) a group of children or teens who are similar in sex, age, household income level, race, or ethnicity to the specific child or teen to whom the product or service is marketed;

“(ii) profiling of a child or teen or group of children or teens; or

“(iii) a unique identifier of the connected device.

“(B) **EXCLUSIONS.**—The term ‘individual-specific advertising to children or teens’ shall not include—

“(i) advertising or marketing to an individual or the device of an individual in response to the individual’s specific request for information or feedback, such as a child’s or teen’s current search query;

“(ii) contextual advertising, such as when an advertisement is displayed based on the content of the website, online service, online application, mobile application, or connected device in which the advertisement appears and does not vary based on personal information related to the viewer;

“(iii) processing personal information solely for measuring or reporting advertising or content performance, reach, or frequency, including independent measurement; or

“(iv) advertising or marketing directed to a connected device used by both adult and child or teen members of a household where such advertising or marketing is directed to the profile of the adult user.

“(C) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall be construed to prohibit an operator with actual knowledge or knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances that a user is under the age of 17 from delivering advertising or marketing that is age-appropriate and intended for a child or teen audience, so long as the operator does not use any personal information other than whether the user is under the age of 17.

“(19) **EDUCATIONAL AGENCY OR INSTITUTION.**—The term ‘educational agency or institution’ means—

“(A) a State educational agency or local educational agency, as such terms are defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801); or

“(B) an institutional day or residential school, including a public school (including a charter school) or private school, that provides elementary or secondary education, as determined under State law.”.

(b) **ONLINE COLLECTION, USE, DISCLOSURE, AND DELETION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION OF CHILDREN AND TEENS.**—Section 1303 of the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6502) is amended—

(1) by striking the heading and inserting the following: “**ONLINE COLLECTION, USE, DISCLOSURE, AND DELETION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION OF CHILDREN AND TEENS.**”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—It is unlawful for an operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application directed to children or for any operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application with actual knowledge or knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances that a user is a child or teen—

“(A) to collect personal information from a child or teen in a manner that violates the regulations prescribed under subsection (b);

“(B) except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 1302(18), to collect, use, disclose to third parties, or maintain personal information of a child or teen for purposes of individual-specific advertising to children or teens (or to allow another person to collect, use, disclose, or maintain such information for such purpose);

“(C) to collect the personal information of a child or teen except when the collection of the personal information is—

“(i) consistent with the context of a particular transaction or service or the relationship of the child or teen with the operator, including collection necessary to fulfill a transaction or provide a product or service requested by the child or teen; or

“(ii) required or specifically authorized by Federal or State law; or

“(D) to store or transfer the personal information of a child or teen outside of the United States unless the operator provides direct notice to the parent of the child, in the case of a child, or to the teen, in the case of a teen, that the child’s or teen’s personal information is being stored or transferred outside of the United States; or

“(E) to retain the personal information of a child or teen for longer than is reasonably necessary to fulfill a transaction or provide a service requested by the child or teen except as required or specifically authorized by Federal or State law.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the header, by striking “PARENT” and inserting “PARENT OR TEEN”;

(ii) by striking “Notwithstanding paragraph (1)” and inserting “Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(A)”;

(iii) by striking “of such a website or online service”; and

(iv) by striking “subsection (b)(1)(B)(iii) to the parent of a child” and inserting “subsection (b)(1)(B)(iv) to the parent of a child or under subsection (b)(1)(C)(iv) to a teen”;

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “operator of any website” and all that follows through “from a child” and inserting “operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application directed to children or that has actual knowledge or knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances that a user is a child or teen”;

(II) in clause (i)—

(aa) by striking “notice on the website” and inserting “clear and conspicuous notice on the website”;

(bb) by inserting “or teens” after “children”;

(cc) by striking “, and the operator’s” and inserting “, the operator’s”; and

(dd) by striking “; and” and inserting “, the rights and opportunities available to the parent of the child or teen under subparagraphs (B) and (C), and the procedures or mechanisms the operator uses to ensure that personal information is not collected from children or teens except in accordance with the regulations promulgated under this paragraph”;

(III) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking “parental”;

(bb) by inserting “or teens” after “children”;

(cc) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting “; and”;

(IV) by inserting after clause (ii) the following new clause:

“(iii) to obtain verifiable consent from a parent of a child or from a teen before using or disclosing personal information of the child or teen for any purpose that is a material change from the original purposes and disclosure practices specified to the parent of the child or the teen under clause (i);”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “website or online service” and inserting “operator”;

(II) in clause (i), by inserting “and the method by which the operator obtained the personal information, and the purposes for which the operator collects, uses, discloses, and retains the personal information” before the semicolon;

(III) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by inserting “to delete personal information collected from the child or content or information submitted by the child to a website, online service, online application, or mobile application and” after “the opportunity at any time”; and

(bb) by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(IV) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv) and inserting after clause (ii) the following new clause:

“(iii) the opportunity to challenge the accuracy of the personal information and, if the parent of the child establishes the inaccuracy of the personal information, to have the inaccurate personal information corrected.”; and

(V) in clause (iv), as so redesignated, by inserting “, if such information is available to the operator at the time the parent makes the request” before the semicolon;

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively;

(iv) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

“(C) require the operator to provide, upon the request of a teen under this subparagraph who has provided personal information to the operator, upon proper identification of that teen—

“(i) a description of the specific types of personal information collected from the teen by the operator, the method by which the operator obtained the personal information, and the purposes for which the operator collects, uses, discloses, and retains the personal information;

“(ii) the opportunity at any time to delete personal information collected from the teen or content or information submitted by the teen to a website, online service, online application, or mobile application and to refuse to permit the operator’s further use or maintenance in retrievable form, or online collection, of personal information from the teen;

“(iii) the opportunity to challenge the accuracy of the personal information and, if the teen establishes the inaccuracy of the personal information, to have the inaccurate personal information corrected; and

“(iv) a means that is reasonable under the circumstances for the teen to obtain any personal information collected from the teen, if such information is available to the operator at the time the teen makes the request;”;

(v) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated—

(I) by striking “a child’s” and inserting “a child’s or teen’s”; and

(II) by inserting “or teen” after “the child”; and

(vi) by amending subparagraph (E), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

“(E) require the operator to establish, implement, and maintain reasonable security practices to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and accessibility of personal information of children or teens collected by the operator, and to protect such personal information against unauthorized access.”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “verifiable parental consent” and inserting “verifiable consent”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by inserting “or teen” after “collected from a child”; and

(II) by inserting “or teen” after “request from the child”; and

(III) by inserting “or teen or to contact another child or teen” after “to recontact the child”; and

(iii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking “parent or child” and inserting “parent or teen”; and

(II) by striking “parental consent” each place the term appears and inserting “verifiable consent”;

(iv) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “or teen” after “child” each place the term appears;

(II) in clause (i)—

(aa) by inserting “or teen” after “child” each place the term appears; and

(bb) by inserting “or teen, as applicable,” after “parent” each place the term appears; and

(III) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking “without notice to the parent” and inserting “without notice to the parent or teen, as applicable,”; and

(bb) by inserting “or teen” after “child” each place the term appears; and

(v) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “or teen” after “child” each place the term appears;

(II) in clause (ii), by inserting “or teen” after “child”; and

(III) in the flush text following clause (iii)—

(aa) by inserting “or teen, as applicable,” after “parent” each place the term appears; and

(bb) by inserting “or teen” after “child”;

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4) and inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

“(3) APPLICATION TO OPERATORS ACTING UNDER AGREEMENTS WITH EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES OR INSTITUTIONS.—The regulations may provide that verifiable consent under paragraph (1)(A)(ii) is not required for an operator that is acting under a written agreement with an educational agency or institution that, at a minimum, requires the—

“(A) operator to—

“(i) limit its collection, use, and disclosure of the personal information from a child or teen to solely educational purposes and for no other commercial purposes;

“(ii) provide the educational agency or institution with a notice of the specific types of personal information the operator will collect from the child or teen, the method by which the operator will obtain the personal information, and the purposes for which the operator will collect, use, disclose, and retain the personal information;

“(iii) provide the educational agency or institution with a link to the operator’s online notice of information practices as required under subsection (b)(1)(A)(i); and

“(iv) provide the educational agency or institution, upon request, with a means to review the personal information collected from a child or teen, to prevent further use or maintenance or future collection of personal information from a child or teen, and to delete personal information collected from a child or teen or content or information submitted by a child or teen to the operator’s website, online service, online application, or mobile application;

“(B) representative of the educational agency or institution to acknowledge and agree that they have authority to authorize the collection, use, and disclosure of personal information from children or teens on behalf of the educational agency or institution, along with such authorization, their name, and title at the educational agency or institution; and

“(C) educational agency or institution to—

“(i) provide on its website a notice that identifies the operator with which it has entered into a written agreement under this subsection and provides a link to the operator’s online notice of information practices as required under paragraph (1)(A)(i);

“(ii) provide the operator’s notice regarding its information practices, as required under subparagraph (A)(ii), upon request, to a parent, in the case of a child, or a parent or teen, in the case of a teen; and

“(iii) upon the request of a parent, in the case of a child, or a parent or teen, in the case of a teen, request the operator provide a means to review the personal information from the child or teen and provide the parent, in the case of a child, or parent or teen, in the case of the teen, a means to review the personal information.”;

(D) by amending paragraph (4), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

“(4) TERMINATION OF SERVICE.—The regulations shall permit the operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application to terminate service provided to a child whose parent has refused, or a teen who has refused, under the regulations prescribed under paragraphs (1)(B)(ii) and (1)(C)(ii), to permit the operator’s further use or maintenance in retrievable form, or future online collection of, personal information from that child or teen.”; and

(E) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(5) CONTINUATION OF SERVICE.—The regulations shall prohibit an operator from discontinuing service provided to a child or teen on the basis of a request by the parent of the child or by the teen, under the regulations prescribed under subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (1), respectively, to delete personal information collected from the child or teen, to the extent that the operator is capable of providing such service without such information.

“(6) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—A request made pursuant to subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (1) to delete or correct personal information of a child or teen shall not be construed—

“(A) to limit the authority of a law enforcement agency to obtain any content or information from an operator pursuant to a lawfully executed warrant or an order of a court of competent jurisdiction;

“(B) to require an operator or third party delete or correct information that—

“(i) any other provision of Federal or State law requires the operator or third party to maintain; or

“(ii) was submitted to the website, online service, online application, or mobile application of the operator by any person other than the user who is attempting to erase or otherwise eliminate the content or information, including content or information submitted by the user that was republished or resubmitted by another person; or

“(C) to prohibit an operator from—

“(i) retaining a record of the deletion request and the minimum information necessary for the purposes of ensuring compliance with a request made pursuant to subparagraph (B) or (C);

“(ii) preventing, detecting, protecting against, or responding to security incidents, identity theft, or fraud, or reporting those responsible for such actions;

“(iii) protecting the integrity or security of a website, online service, online application or mobile application; or

“(iv) ensuring that the child’s or teen’s information remains deleted.

“(7) COMMON VERIFIABLE CONSENT MECHANISM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—

“(i) FEASIBILITY OF MECHANISM.—The Commission shall assess the feasibility, with notice and public comment, of allowing operators the option to use a common verifiable consent mechanism that fully meets the requirements of this title.

“(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—The feasibility assessment described in clause (i) shall consider whether a single operator could use a common verifiable consent mechanism to obtain verifiable consent, as required under this title, from a parent of a child or from a teen on behalf of multiple, listed operators that provide a joint or related service.

“(B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Commission shall submit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives with the findings of the assessment required by subparagraph (A).

“(C) REGULATIONS.—If the Commission finds that the use of a common verifiable consent mechanism is feasible and would meet the requirements of this title, the Commission shall issue regulations to permit the use of a common verifiable consent mechanism in accordance with the findings outlined in such report.”;

(4) in subsection (c), by striking “a regulation prescribed under subsection (a)” and inserting “subparagraph (B), (C), (D), or (E) of

subsection (a)(1), or of a regulation prescribed under subsection (b)."; and

(5) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

"(d) **RELATIONSHIP TO STATE LAW.**—The provisions of this title shall preempt any State law, rule, or regulation only to the extent that such State law, rule, or regulation conflicts with a provision of this title. Nothing in this title shall be construed to prohibit any State from enacting a law, rule, or regulation that provides greater protection to children or teens than the provisions of this title."

(c) **SAFE HARBORS.**—Section 1304 of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6503) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting "and teens" after "children"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(d) **PUBLICATION.**—

"(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the restrictions described in paragraph (2), the Commission shall publish on the internet website of the Commission any report or documentation required by regulation to be submitted to the Commission to carry out this section.

"(2) **RESTRICTIONS ON PUBLICATION.**—The restrictions described in section 6(f) and section 21 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 46(f), 57b-2) applicable to the disclosure of information obtained by the Commission shall apply in same manner to the disclosure under this subsection of information obtained by the Commission from a report or documentation described in paragraph (1)."

(d) **ACTIONS BY STATES.**—Section 1305 of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6504) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting "section 1303(a)(1) or" before "any regulation"; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting "section 1303(a)(1) or" before "the regulation"; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) by inserting "section 1303(a)(1) or" before "any regulation"; and

(B) by inserting "section 1303(a)(1) or" before "that regulation".

(e) **ADMINISTRATION AND APPLICABILITY OF ACT.**—Section 1306 of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6505) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ", in the case of" and all that follows through "the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation;" and inserting the following: "by the appropriate Federal banking agency, with respect to any insured depository institution (as those terms are defined in section 3 of that Act (12 U.S.C. 1813));"; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating paragraphs (3) through (6) as paragraphs (2) through (5), respectively;

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) by inserting "section 1303(a)(1) or" before "a rule"; and

(B) by striking "such rule" and inserting "section 1303(a)(1) or a rule of the Commission under section 1303"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

"(f) **DETERMINATION OF WHETHER AN OPERATOR HAS KNOWLEDGE FAIRLY IMPLIED ON THE BASIS OF OBJECTIVE CIRCUMSTANCES.**—

"(1) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—For purposes of enforcing this title or a regulation promulgated under this title, in making a determination as to whether an operator has knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances that a specific user is a child or teen, the Commission or State attorneys general shall rely on competent and

reliable evidence, taking into account the totality of the circumstances, including whether a reasonable and prudent person under the circumstances would have known that the user is a child or teen. Nothing in this title, including a determination described in the preceding sentence, shall be construed to require an operator to—

"(A) affirmatively collect any personal information with respect to the age of a child or teen that an operator is not already collecting in the normal course of business; or

"(B) implement an age gating or age verification functionality.

"(2) **COMMISSION GUIDANCE.**—

"(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Within 180 days of enactment, the Commission shall issue guidance to provide information, including best practices and examples for operators to understand the Commission's determination of whether an operator has knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances that a user is a child or teen.

"(B) **LIMITATION.**—No guidance issued by the Commission with respect to this title shall confer any rights on any person, State, or locality, nor shall operate to bind the Commission or any person to the approach recommended in such guidance. In any enforcement action brought pursuant to this title, the Commission or State attorney general, as applicable, shall allege a specific violation of a provision of this title. The Commission or State attorney general, as applicable, may not base an enforcement action on, or execute a consent order based on, practices that are alleged to be inconsistent with any such guidance, unless the practices allegedly violate this title. For purposes of enforcing this title or a regulation promulgated under this title, State attorneys general shall take into account any guidance issued by the Commission under subparagraph (A).

"(g) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—Any regulations issued under this title shall include a description and analysis of the impact of proposed and final Rules on small entities per the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (5 U.S.C. 601 et seq.)."

SEC. 3. STUDY AND REPORTS OF MOBILE AND ONLINE APPLICATION OVERSIGHT AND ENFORCEMENT.

(a) **OVERSIGHT REPORT.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Trade Commission shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on the processes of platforms that offer mobile and online applications for ensuring that, of those applications that are websites, online services, online applications, or mobile applications directed to children, the applications operate in accordance with—

(1) this Act, the amendments made by this Act, and rules promulgated under this Act; and

(2) rules promulgated by the Commission under section 18 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a) relating to unfair or deceptive acts or practices in marketing.

(b) **ENFORCEMENT REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and each year thereafter, the Federal Trade Commission shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that addresses, at a minimum—

(1) the number of actions brought by the Commission during the reporting year to enforce the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6501) (referred to in this subsection as the "Act") and the outcome of each such action;

(2) the total number of investigations or inquiries into potential violations of the Act; during the reporting year;

(3) the total number of open investigations or inquiries into potential violations of the Act as of the time the report is submitted;

(4) the number and nature of complaints received by the Commission relating to an allegation of a violation of the Act during the reporting year; and

(5) policy or legislative recommendations to strengthen online protections for children and teens.

SEC. 4. GAO STUDY.

(a) **STUDY.**—The Comptroller General of the United States (in this section referred to as the "Comptroller General") shall conduct a study on the privacy and mental health of teens who use financial technology products. Such study shall—

(1) identify the type of financial technology products that teens are using;

(2) identify the potential risks to teens' privacy and mental health from using such financial technology products; and

(3) determine whether existing laws are sufficient to address such risks to teens' privacy and mental health.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of the study conducted under subsection (a), together with recommendations for such legislation and administrative action as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

SEC. 5. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act, or an amendment made by this Act, is determined to be unenforceable or invalid, the remaining provisions of this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall not be affected.

Mr. MARKEY. With that again, Mr. President, I thank Senator CASSIDY. It is a historic day. We have begun this process on the Senate floor today with protections in place, which has been long overdue for teenagers and children in our country. Again, it is the ongoing assault against their privacy and undermining their mental health. So I thank everyone who participated in this, especially my friend Senator CASSIDY.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

REMEMBERING KURT PAUL PFOTENHAUER

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today, I want to recognize and honor the life of Kurt Paul Pfotenhauer, an extraordinary public servant and three-decade friend who passed away on January 21.

Kurt was, first and foremost, a man of deep Christian faith. He was guided in his public service not only by his conservative political beliefs but by that faith, his integrity, his humility, and his sense of responsibility for others.

When I first met Kurt, he had been named Senator Gordon Smith's chief of staff. Gordon and I were brand new Senators, and we had a Mount Hood-sized mountain to climb. That is because we were to fill the giant shoes of two retiring, very powerful U.S. Senators from Oregon.

Kurt and my chief of staff executed an agreement between Gordon and I to set aside our political differences whenever possible and go to bat for the

State of Oregon. That included making sure that our respective congressional and political staffs abided by that agreement. That last bit, as Senators know, sometimes can be easier said than done.

We quickly learned that Kurt's word really meant something. Trust can be awfully difficult to make happen in politics, even with those in your own political party, but we came to see that Kurt's word, in fact, was his bond. Our staffs learned to work together—occasionally through gritted teeth—and Kurt and Gordon always upheld their end of the agreement.

Those years of the Oregon bipartisan partnership with Gordon and Kurt were extraordinarily, extraordinarily important to me. I believe they were fruitful years, and we owe so much of that credit for all the collaboration to the leadership and decency of Kurt.

After Kurt left the Congress and Gordon's office, he went on to a very successful career in the financial services sector. He culminated his years there as executive vice president and vice chairman of First American Title Insurance. I know his colleagues there feel an enormous loss, too, because Kurt was the kind of individual who conducted himself professionally and lived his life daily in a way that served as an example, particularly to young people around him.

Kurt was generous with his time, his financial resources, and especially with his heart. He believed in the communities that he was a part of and he was beloved by the communities that he touched. His commitment to service was reflected in a lifelong dedication to always trying to help others. For decades, Kurt and his wonderful wife, Nancy, were sole supporters of The Children's Light Home orphanage in India. He served on the board of directors for the Opens Doors Foundation, and he helped provide mortgage and rental assistance to the many families that had disabled kids.

His support for those in need continued even in his final days. He extended help at that time to a chemo patient from out of town who lived out of the cab of his truck on his chemo days at the Mayo Clinic. Kurt helped his fellow patient with lodging. That, Mr. President—and I say this on behalf of all Oregonians who got to know Kurt—tells you what Kurt Pfothauer was always about, the Kurt we knew and the Kurt we loved.

He fought an incredibly courageous 18-month-long battle against cancer. Kurt used that time creating special memories with his beloved wife Nancy and their five kids and grandchildren. Family was everything to Kurt.

I want to extend a special thank-you to all of them for sharing Kurt with all of us here in the Senate, and I want to extend a heartfelt thank-you to Kurt's family on behalf of Oregonians and our Nation for all that he did to make our country and the great State of Oregon a better place.

Kurt's many wise and kind deeds on Earth are going to continue to create opportunity, and opportunity is what our country is all about. Opportunity is when we are at our best, and, my God, Kurt Pfothauer created a lot of opportunity for generations, in Oregon and in our country, to have a better life in the days ahead.

Kurt served as a trusted adviser and confidant to me, and that will be something I will always miss. My former chief of staff and I are always going to remember and love our friend Kurt Pfothauer. May his memory be a blessing to all who knew him and to all who have studied what he has done to make a difference. May people reflect on that in the days ahead and may it be a comfort.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democrat leader.

S. 836

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I am very glad that today the Senate is taking a major step forward to protect our kids online. Today, the Senate is passing unanimously COPPA, the Children Online Privacy and Protection Act.

The bill expands the current law protecting our kids online to ensure companies cannot collect personal information from anyone under the age of 17. This is a big step forward for protecting our kids. We hope the House can join us. They haven't thus far. But this is really important to protect kids online. To ban targeting advertising to children and teens makes imminent sense. To establish data minimization rules to prohibit the excessive collection of children and teens' data makes sense.

So this is a very good day for kids throughout America. This is a very good day for their parents as well, who can breathe a sigh of relief that some real protections for kids online are finally passing the Senate once again.

I yield the floor.

HOUSING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, it has been nearly 6 weeks—6 weeks—since Alex Pretti was killed by masked Federal agents in broad daylight. It has been over 9 weeks since Renee Good was killed. And day after day, week after week, we have seen Americans brutalized by an out-of-control Department of Homeland Security—American citizens detained without cause, children ripped away from their families—as this administration treats them like political pawns in their sick games. We have seen peaceful protesters have their windows broken in by untrained and unidentifiable agents. And we have seen more people get hurt and even die because of how ICE and Border Patrol have been conducting themselves.

In this entire time, Democrats have been pushing for serious reform to rein in these Agencies. For months, I have been at the table in good faith, pushing to secure basic accountability measures for ICE and Border Patrol. We are talking about standards local police already follow across the country.

But even before Alex Pretti was shot and killed, Republicans and this White House, in particular, were telling us no on many basic reforms that would rein in ICE and CBP.

We pushed for commonsense steps to make sure poorly trained agents and officers do not trample the basic rights of American citizens and kill them for no reason. And we pushed for steps to prevent these rogue Agencies from hiding the facts from the public and sweeping everything under the rug.

But my colleagues across the aisle came back to us and said: Sorry, we cannot agree to those.

Sometimes, my Republican colleagues were willing to take one modest step or another, which I appreciate, only to have to come back and say the White House was not willing to do that, and they had to hold the line. Or worse, they backtracked on measures we agreed to because of fears of what the White House would think.

And now, here we find ourselves, nearly 6 weeks after Alex Pretti's brutal killing, and Republicans so far have continued to refuse to join us to pass any commonsense reforms to prevent more Americans from being hurt or even killed by masked Federal agents.

As I have said many times, we are not asking for the Moon. We are asking for basic steps to protect Americans' constitutional rights and their safety.

There is nothing new or controversial about body cameras or requiring identification be displayed. There is nothing extreme about insisting that ICE and Border Patrol follow the same standards as everyone else when it comes to use of force or needing a warrant before smashing in someone's door and dragging them away. These are common sense, and they are overwhelmingly popular.

This is what the American people are demanding. But Republicans have decided they would rather shut down DHS than work with us to rein in these rogue Agencies. Republicans know full well that Democrats do want to ensure that TSA and CISA and FEMA and other important Agencies are funded.

What Democrats have a problem with is funding rogue Agencies that are actively violating court orders and our civil rights and putting Americans' safety at risk. We cannot—we will not—cut a blank check for funding without reforms for ICE and Border Patrol.

But if Republicans keep dragging their feet on those basic reforms we are asking for to protect people from those rogue Federal Agencies, then we should at least make sure that TSA agents get paid and FEMA is fully funded while those negotiations continue.

TSA agents should not go without pay because Republicans refuse to agree to commonsense reforms instead of cutting another blank check for Kristi Noem and Stephen Miller to terrorize Americans.

So, yes, let's pay our Coast Guard and our TSA. Let's replenish the Disaster Relief Fund and support other work that we overwhelmingly all agree on. I have a bill that I will offer in a moment that will do that. We can pass it right now, while pressing ahead with negotiations on ICE and Border Patrol to get basic reforms and accountability the American people want.

All week, I have heard my colleagues on the other side of the aisle loudly say funding for DHS could not be more important in this moment. They have argued the instability this President has unleashed with his reckless war in Iran means Democrats must now fund DHS, including ICE, with no reforms at all.

Now, there are some obvious problems with that argument, like the bizarre notion that because Trump started a reckless war with Iran, Democrats now must rush and cut a blank check; or the fact that the biggest threat to cyber and counterterrorism work at DHS seems to be Kristi Noem, who, by the way, over the last year, has gutted CISA and has taken folks off the terrorism beat to deport farmworkers with no criminal history.

But put all that aside. I completely agree we should fund our cyber defense Agencies and FEMA and TSA.

So I hope my Republican colleagues, who also believe—I know they do—that these Agencies are important and have been making the case they do need funding, will join with me today to get this bill passed while talks on ICE and Border Patrol and much needed reform and accountability measures can continue.

With that, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of my bill, which is at the desk; that the bill be considered read three times and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I would like a moment to respond to my colleague from Washington.

Democrats claim they are no longer for open borders. Yet they are now proposing to actually defund border security. Their proposal completely defunds Customs and Border Protection, including Border Patrol.

Year over year, fentanyl deaths are down 24 percent. When you take overdoses of drug and fentanyl, that is down 24 percent because of the good work of CBP. But you want to defund that. Why?

During the Biden administration, we had a record high of overdoses. Do you know what the American people said?

They said: No more, no more. We are sick of the failed Biden border policies.

We expect the people who are elected to represent us to actually do that.

And there are moms and dads that are sitting around their kitchen table with a child who would not be here but for the courageous acts of CBP. But Democrats, today, say they want to defund them.

Additionally, Democrats claim they are no longer the party of "defund the police." Yet, today, they actually came here and asked to defund our law enforcement officers—our law enforcement officers that do a multitude of things. They are asking to defund HSI today.

I heard the minority leader give a few remarks earlier. I was glad to see him down here. And he talked about the need to protect children. I wish that the other side of the aisle had that level of conviction over the last 4 years of the Biden administration, when we lost over 500,000 kids to Joe Biden's failed border policies, on which this side of the aisle said: Nothing can be done with it unless we pass a law. There are no reforms that can stop this flow further. There are no reforms.

They actually did away with a DNA policy to make sure those kids went to someone that they were related to. Do you know what you are defunding? You are defunding an Agency that found 145 of those lost children.

I agree with my colleague from Washington that children should matter. When you think about what else HSI does, they go find child predators. HSI is responsible for capturing these men, and, today, you all decided that is not worth funding. We are no longer going to go after people who are child pornographers, child predators, sex traffickers, drug traffickers. The worst of the worst is who HSI has found and gotten rid of, but, today, the Democrats came and said: We are not going to fund it.

You are defunding ERO personnel, who removed these trained national cartel members and violent criminals, and you are defunding CBP personnel.

Look, it is very clear, through their actions today, that they are still the party of open borders. They are still the party of "defund the police"—now, actually, more than ever. You can't get more radical than that. That was actually rejected at the ballot box last November.

But we know this couldn't come at a more dangerous time. We know, when we saw what happened in Austin, that there was an increased level of threat to our interior. We know that, in December 2025, the Director of the National Counterterrorism Center testified that the United States had admitted over 18,000 known or suspected terrorists as part of Biden's parole program.

When you are looking at this—when you are looking at the CBP and the fact that, in fiscal year 2025, they got 4,800 known terrorists or terrorist suspects at the border and, in fiscal year 2026, 3,950, we have work to do.

We want to work with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. We want to find a pathway forward, but it takes actually having conversations and working together to be able to do that. This is completely moving us in the wrong direction. It would endanger the lives of our families and, ultimately, the safety of our Nation. Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, unfortunately, what has become very clear is that Republicans would rather keep the entire DHS shut down than work with Democrats to prevent more Americans from being killed by masked agents.

My Democratic colleagues and I have been very, very clear on the reforms we need. It is not secret, and we have been pushing for them for weeks on end, in good faith, to finalize a DHS bill that funds TSA and FEMA while reining in ICE and the CBP. But Republicans and the White House have now, for months, refused to agree to those basic reforms that we need to make to keep Americans safe. They have said again and again that we need to fund FEMA and TSA and other key Agencies. Well, I just tried to pass a bill that would make sure that those Agencies are funded while talks on reforms and accountability measures for ICE and Border Patrol continue. So guess what. They blocked that too.

Now, this is not complicated. Democrats want to get TSA officers paid and fund disaster relief, but we will not vote to help Republicans spend one more dime letting Stephen Miller terrorize our cities, and we will not vote to cut a blank check so that ICE can barge into Americans' homes without a warrant. We will not vote to allow ICE agents to continue wearing masks as they terrorize our communities and evade accountability. We need accountability for ICE and for Border Patrol.

It is not just Democrats' saying that. The American people overwhelmingly agree that Trump's and Noem's lawless rampage has got to come to an end. People feel that way because we have all seen what has happened. It is in plain sight. We have all seen the videos of people who are tackled and pepper-sprayed in the face and seen the protesters who are gassed for no reason. We have seen the horrific shootings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, and we have seen Kristi Noem, ICE, and the Border Patrol blatantly lie and slander people like Renee and Alex and Marimar Martinez by falsely calling them domestic terrorists.

What we have not yet seen is accountability. That is what has got to end. No number of Republican revotes on the same failed bill is going to change that and while our bill to fund the Coast Guard and TSA and FEMA, as negotiations continue, was just objected to. So I am ready at any time to pass that. It is the right thing to do.

Instead of blocking bills to pay TSA agents or wasting time with dead-on-

arrival legislation, I hope that Republicans will listen to what we are asking for and listen to what their constituents are asking for. We need to see ICE have accountability. Work with us to pass those reforms in order to fund that full Agency.

With that, I want my colleagues to know I will continue to work to get that done.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, we would love to listen. That would be great because we passed a continuing resolution for 2 weeks, and to my knowledge, there were no conversations between elected Democrats and elected Republicans to try and find a pathway forward. Then, in the last 2 weeks, we have been asking to have those conversations, and we have been asking to listen because we believe that this is important. So I am calling on my Democratic colleagues to be a part of that, to be a part of the solution. I certainly know that we want to.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 156, H.R. 4553. I further ask that the Britt substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, look, I, too, am frustrated this body has not been able to reach an agreement on the DHS funding bill. In particular, I am frustrated that my colleagues across the aisle and in the White House are still refusing to agree to work with us on commonsense measures to protect our constituents from being shot and even killed by unidentifiable, untrained ICE and Border Patrol agents.

Democrats have been very clear on this for weeks. We want to fund FEMA and TSA, and we want to protect Americans from the violence at the hands of rogue Federal Agencies. This is not complicated. We can and we must do both.

I have always been very clear about what we cannot do, which is cut another blank check for Kristi Noem to terrorize our communities. Unfortunately, that is what the bill from the junior Senator from Alabama would do. It would kick the can down the road and give more money to ICE and Border Patrol to trample American rights. That is not an acceptable outcome.

If Republicans won't agree to the commonsense measures we have been pushing for weeks—measures that police departments across America already adhere to—then I am absolutely willing and ready to fund the rest of DHS while talks on ICE and CBP continue. In fact, that is what the bill did that I just offered.

I object to this measure, and I really hope our Republican colleagues will join me in supporting the bill I called up a few moments ago to fund the TSA and FEMA and CISA while those talks continue. So I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The majority leader.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026—Motion to Proceed to the Motion to Reconsider

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to the motion to reconsider the cloture vote from February 12 on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 311, H.R. 7147.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 311, H.R. 7147.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 311, H.R. 7147, a bill making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

John Thune, John Barrasso, John R. Curtis, Bill Hagerty, Tim Sheehy, Thom Tillis, Tom Cotton, Joni Ernst, Jim Banks, Markwayne Mullin, Tommy Tuberville, Steve Daines, Josh Hawley, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Jon Husted, Pete Ricketts, Susan M. Collins.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 7147, a bill making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close, upon reconsideration?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 47 Leg.]

YEAS—51

Banks	Fischer	Moody
Barrasso	Graham	Moreno
Blackburn	Grassley	Mullin
Boozman	Hagerty	Murkowski
Britt	Hawley	Paul
Budd	Hoeven	Ricketts
Capito	Husted	Risch
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cornyn	Johnson	Schmitt
Cotton	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lankford	Sheehy
Cruz	Lee	Sullivan
Curtis	Lummis	Thune
Daines	Marshall	Tillis
Ernst	McConnell	Wicker
Fetterman	McCormick	Young

NAYS—45

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Rosen
Baldwin	Kaine	Sanders
Bennet	Kelly	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kim	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	King	Schumer
Booker	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Lujan	Slotkin
Coons	Markey	Smith
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warner
Durbin	Murray	Warnock
Gallego	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Welch
Heinrich	Peters	Whitehouse
Hickenlooper	Reed	Wyden

NOT VOTING—4

Cassidy	Moran	Tuberville
Hassan		

(Mr. BARRASSO assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. LUMMIS). On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 45.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion, upon reconsideration, is not agreed to.

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, your mic wasn't on. What did you call me? What was the name that you used?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, thank you. I truly appreciate the Presiding Officer.

I hope that was recorded by the stenographer that the Presiding Officer called me a gentleman.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Duly noted.

TRIBUTE TO CAROLE DARCHE

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, to my colleagues in the Senate, to the Senate President, to all those assembled here, I am rising to give this speech, and I feel such privilege because I get to recognize someone whose work most Americans never see but whose contribution is woven into the very history of this institution.

When a Senator comes to the floor to speak, whether it is daily routine address or a moment that will echo through generations, there is always someone standing just off camera, often unnoticed, a stenograph machine hanging from their neck, capturing every word we say. They record our arguments and our aspirations, our disagreements and our dreams, our long

speeches, and sometimes our longer ones.

The dozens of people who are watching C-SPAN may not realize it, but the words spoken in this Chamber simply don't float away into the air. They are preserved—faithfully, meticulously—by extraordinary professionals who ensure that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD becomes the living memory of the U.S. Senate and our Nation.

For those of you who do not know about these extraordinary stenographers, their work is not easy. It requires years of training, immense focus and concentration, and a remarkable command of language and speed and accents that range from a southern Texas accent to a Jersey one. And it requires a hell of a lot of patience because, as everyone in this Chamber knows, brevity is not always the defining virtue of the U.S. Senate. Yet, through late nights, historic votes, moments of celebration, and moments of national grief, Senate stenographers have stood quietly at their posts ensuring that what happens here is captured for the American people and preserved in American history for generations yet to come.

Today, I want to recognize one of the very best of them. Today, I want to recognize Carole Darche. Carole has spent more than 45 years as a court reporter, bringing her extraordinary skill to the Senate floor to record some of the most consequential moments in our Nation's history.

Through long sessions, overnight debates, and pivotal moments in our country, Carole has been there—steadfast, precise, and deeply committed to this institution. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the lights of this Chamber have shone a little bit brighter because of her presence.

What has always struck me about Carole is not just her professionalism but the spirit she brings to her work. Day after day, she arrives with warmth and enthusiasm and a quiet pride in serving something larger than herself.

And the dedication required is extraordinary. Each session week, Carole boards the Amtrak from New Jersey to Washington, listening to her audiobooks along the way, traveling hundreds of miles that would make even Joe Biden a little bit jealous, to stand on this floor and serve the American people. This kind of commitment to public service, to this institution of the U.S. Senate, and to the preservation of our democratic record is something we should all aspire to.

While we will deeply miss Carole—I am sure I speak for my 99 colleagues; we will miss her in the Senate—I must admit that I am delighted that her retirement will take her back home to the great State of “New Joisey”—I mean New Jersey; forgive me—where she plans to enjoy the Jersey Shore with her husband Fred, her three stepchildren, and her five grandchildren. She also plans to travel to Paris, to Portugal, and beyond. I have no doubt

that the same spirit of curiosity and joy she brought to this building will accompany her on those adventures.

Carole, the Senate will miss you. We will miss your warmth. We will miss your enthusiasm for this institution. And, yes, we will miss hearing about you, witnessing your humanity, seeing every day the truth that it is leaders in the Senate—often who don't stand in the spotlight, who don't face the camera—it is leaders in the Senate like you that make this institution functional for the American people.

Carole, that is what patriotism is. It is not seen often in one flash or one flourish. Patriotism is steadfast dedication to serving this Nation day in and day out.

What does your service render? I have come to learn that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD is more than ink on paper; it is the story of our democracy. And for decades, you have helped ensure that story was captured with precision, care, and integrity. For that, the U.S. Senate and the Nation and every one of the Members of this body owe you gratitude.

Carole, thank you for your extraordinary years of service. May your retirement be filled with family, with travel, with laughter, with yoga, and many beautiful sunsets along the incredible Jersey Shore. The truth is, you will be leaving this Chamber, but the history you helped preserve here—your contributions—will endure for generations.

I yield the floor as I give tribute to another great member of this body who herself is yielding this floor and saying her farewell.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, it was the spring of 2019. Public and media interest in Special Counsel Robert Mueller's report into Russia's election interference operation reached a fever pitch.

There had been a steady drip, drip, drip of reporting on the Trump team's cozy and peculiar relationship with Russia since his surprise election victory in 2016.

Ahead of the Mueller report's release, Trump's Attorney General, Bill Barr, issued a letter to Congress, purporting to summarize the report's findings. The letter declared that Russia and the Trump campaign did not collude to steal the election.

The press, ravenous for any news of the long-anticipated Mueller report's conclusion, largely accepted Attorney General Barr's narrow, carefully worded conclusion and, not yet having ac-

cess to the full report, blasted the Attorney General's summary around the world.

Trump himself declared—all caps: “NO COLLUSION!”

He said he had been cleared of the Russia “hoax,” a term he reserves only to describe things that are true, like climate change.

Frustrated, Mueller wrote to Barr that the Attorney General's letter “did not fully capture the context, nature, and substance” of the investigation. But by the time the dense, voluminous Mueller report was issued, the month after Barr's letter, his message had been obscured.

The Mueller report actually concluded that the Trump campaign knew of and welcomed Russian interference and expected to benefit from it. That conclusion was later echoed and reinforced by an investigation led by then-Chairman Marco Rubio's Senate Intelligence Committee, a bipartisan report.

But Barr's scheme had largely worked. Many in the media and in the Democratic Party seemed to internalize that the Russia speculation had perhaps gotten out of hand and that perhaps we had been wrong to believe there was a troubling connection between Trump and Russia after all.

But were we? Let's take a look at a sampling of what Trump has done for Russia just lately, and usually at the expense of American interests. There are many, but here is a “top 10.”

One, after Trump and Vice President VANCE theatrically chastised the heroic Ukrainian President Zelenskyy in front of TV cameras in the Oval Office, last year, Trump paused our weapons shipments to Ukraine.

Two, in July, during the worst Russian bombing campaign of the war to that point, Trump paused an already funded weapons shipment for Ukraine, including the Patriot interceptors that protect civilians from Putin's savage attacks.

Three, that same month, Trump's Treasury Department stopped imposing new sanctions and closing sanctions loopholes, effectively allowing dummy corporations to send funds, chips, and military equipment to Russia.

Four, leaked phone calls show that White House envoy Steve Witkoff and Putin envoy Kirill Dmitriev have worked together closely behind the scenes on a peace deal favorable to Russia.

Five, last summer, Trump rolled out the Presidential red carpet for the Russian dictator on American soil, with a summit in Alaska that yielded, unsurprisingly, no gains toward ending the war in Ukraine.

Six, Trump's Vice President traveled to the Munich Security Conference, last year, to parrot Russia's anti-Western talking points, pushed by right-wing groups that Putin has long funded and used to create political strife in Europe.

Seven, Trump installed Russia apologist Tulsi Gabbard as his Director of

National Intelligence, much to the glee of Russian state media.

Eight, upon the confirmation of Trump's Attorney General Pam Bondi, the Department of Justice shuttered its anti-kleptocracy work that had successfully targeted Putin's Russian oligarchs.

Nine, late last year, Trump unveiled a new so-called National Security Strategy, which abandoned traditional alliances in Europe and favored a transactional foreign policy that the Kremlin praised as "largely consistent" with Moscow's vision and desires.

And, 10, the Trump administration is even paving the way for Russia's return to global sports competition, ending its isolation in those arenas, in the wake of the hostile Ukraine invasion and state-backed systemic doping programs in Russia.

That is a "top 10," but the list goes on. If Trump were purposefully doing Russia's bidding, it is hard to see what he would be doing differently.

The United States is the most powerful nation in the world. Russia is a weak, corrupt regime. My old friend Senator John McCain used to say that Russia is a gas station, run by gangsters, with an army. It doesn't make sense that the President of the United States, who insists—insists—on being dominant in essentially every relationship, is so submissive to one person. And that one person is Russia's dictator Vladimir Putin.

So what is it about Trump and Russia? And could it have any connection with Trump's close friendship with the deceased pedophile Jeffrey Epstein?

Much about Epstein remains unknown. But the survivors who have come forward and the millions of emails released through the bipartisan Epstein Files Transparency Act have shed some light on the operation of the late financier's global pedophile ring, and, over and over, it touches Russia.

When recently asked by a reporter about the Epstein files, Trump said in part:

It's just a Russia, Russia, Russia hoax.

Again, "hoax"—the word he uses for when something is true.

But the most telling part is that Trump's mind, asked about Epstein, immediately went to Russia—"Russia, Russia, Russia."

I should start by pointing out that Epstein's ties to foreign intelligence may never be fully known. It is a murky world. He had links to officials in the U.S., Russian, and Israeli Governments, and many others. But it is worth looking at those ties to Russia, a nation so hostile to the United States.

Epstein's career began in the mid-1970s at the prestigious Dalton School in New York City, where, despite dropping out of college, 21-year-old Jeffrey Epstein was given a position teaching high school mathematics to the children of some of New York's wealthiest families.

Perhaps of note, the outgoing headmaster at the time of Epstein's hire

was Donald Barr, the father of future Attorney General Bill Barr and a former intelligence officer during World War II. The elder Barr was known for making unconventional hires at Dalton.

After a couple of years, Epstein was able to leverage the elite connections he made at Dalton to a job at Wall Street investment bank Bear Stearns, where he rose quickly through the company. However, after getting caught fabricating his résumé, using the company credit card on expensive gifts for his girlfriend, and, ultimately, providing privileged stock information to a girlfriend, among other unscrupulous behaviors, Epstein called it quits and started his own financial firm.

Those early scams were just the start. Shortly thereafter, Epstein fell in with a wealthy man named Douglas Leese, a British defense contractor with connections in the arms industry and the British Government. During this period, Epstein would tell people he was a "bounty hunter" who tracked down hidden money.

According to Steven Hoffenberg, a former business mentor of Epstein's who went to prison for a massive Ponzi scheme that he later said Epstein had designed, Leese introduced Epstein to Robert Maxwell.

Ghislaine Maxwell, who became Epstein's girlfriend and sex-trafficking accomplice after her father's death, was Robert Maxwell's favorite daughter, and he involved her deeply in his work.

An opportunist in pursuit of wealth, the Czechoslovak-born Robert Maxwell had complex, shifting ties to British, Soviet, and Israeli intelligence.

Initially bankrolled by MI6, he accepted secret payments from the KGB through his Soviet-friendly publishing company and was the rare individual who traversed both sides of the Iron Curtain.

In 1992, the British newspaper the Sunday Express wrote that a secret document, signed by the head of the KGB months before Maxwell's death at sea, showed that Maxwell was a political and intelligence asset for the Soviet Union. The newspaper claimed that the document indicated Soviet leadership had instructed the KGB to protect Maxwell's reputation and business activities.

Maxwell's UK foreign office file, released more than a decade after his death, described him as "a thoroughly bad character and almost certainly financed by Russia."

Journalist Vicky Ward wrote the following in Rolling Stone Magazine in 2021. She said:

Hoffenberg told me that Epstein had said he'd worked on several projects with Robert Maxwell, including solving Maxwell's "debt" issues.

The word "debt" is in quotes.

(Maxwell died in 1991, under very strange circumstances, apparently having fallen off his yacht, the Lady Ghislaine, in the middle of the night and it was discovered in the

aftermath that he'd stolen 100s of millions of dollars from the pensions of his employees.)

The story continued:

Epstein had also told Hoffenberg that via Maxwell and Leese he was involved in something that Hoffenberg described as "national security issues," which he says involved "blackmail, influence trading, trading information at a level that is very serious and dangerous."

The story concluded:

Four separate sources told me—on the record—that Epstein's dealings in the arms world in the 1980s had led him to work for multiple governments, including the Israelis.

Epstein's strategies for making money and working intelligence contacts seem to have some similarities to Robert Maxwell's.

For the record, Epstein, a profligate liar, once told Ward that he never met Robert Maxwell or Leese.

At some point in the 1980s, Epstein struck up a friendship with a fellow brash New York businessman by the name of Donald Trump. Author Michael Wolff has said of Trump and Epstein:

They shared everything. They shared their airplanes. They shared women between them. They shared constantly business and financial advice.

There are many photos of the two men together on the New York and Palm Beach party circuits throughout the 1990s. Trump, now famously said in 2002:

I've known Jeff for fifteen years. Terrific guy. He's a lot of fun to be with. It is even said that he likes beautiful women as much as I do, and many of them are on the younger side.

Alan Dershowitz told the New York Times in 2019 that "in those days, if you didn't know Trump and you didn't know Epstein, you were a nobody."

Dershowitz is the well-known lawyer who served both on Epstein's defense team when he was charged with having sex with minors back in 2006 and on Trump's impeachment defense team in 2020.

The President of Trump's Atlantic City Trump Plaza Hotel in the late 1980s said he saw Trump and Epstein together so frequently that he believed Epstein was Trump's "best friend." That same man described an incident where Trump brought Epstein and a 19-year-old girl to the casino gaming floor.

Epstein once took a model to Trump Tower, where she says Trump groped her while laughing with Epstein. She remarked that it seemed like "a twisted game" between the two men.

One survivor says Epstein summoned her to his offices late one night. Trump soon arrived. And according to the New York Times, "[she] recalled feeling scared as Mr. Trump stared at her bare legs. Then Mr. Epstein entered the room, and she recalled him saying to Mr. Trump: 'No, no. She's not here for you.'" After the men left the room, she said she overheard Trump commenting that he thought she was 16 years old.

In 1992, Trump hosted a "calendar girls competition" at Mar-a-Lago for

dozens of young women. The event organizer was appalled to learn that Trump and Epstein would be the only men present—a private showing.

During Maxwell's trial, one of Epstein's victims said he took her to meet Trump at Mar-a-Lago when she was 14.

Maxwell recruited 16-year-old Virginia Giuffre from the spa at Mar-a-Lago. Giuffre was abused by Epstein and trafficked to other men in Epstein's orbit.

Trump said in 2025:

I think [Giuffre] worked at the spa. He stole her.

"He" being Epstein.

In 1997, the UK tabloid, the Daily Mirror, formerly owned by Robert Maxwell, claimed that Trump was dating a 20-year-old British model and Ghislaine Maxwell had introduced them at a party. The tabloid notes:

[Trump] met [the model] at a party in Manhattan. Several American millionaires already had their eyes on [the model]. But she was there with Robert Maxwell's daughter Ghislaine, who has introduced several of her attractive friends to the property developer, [Trump].

According to the Mirror:

After their meeting, Trump flew Madam Maxwell and the model south to the sunshine state, where they enjoyed a happy weekend together. When they returned to New York, [the model] was installed in one of Donald's many apartments there.

In an interview with BBC "Newsnight," the model stated:

Ghislaine Maxwell did introduce me to him—

That is Trump—

and she introduced me to him with a clear message of my being with him in the same way that she had trafficked me and brought me to Jeffrey Epstein.

She also said:

I can only speak for myself, and this is in no way to negate any other experience that anyone else might have had with him, but, at no time did President Trump behave with any impropriety with me.

The same woman accused Epstein of sexually abusing her when she was a teenager in a 2019 interview with NBC.

From NBC:

The abuse . . . spanned several years and locales. In addition to the estate on his private island, [she] said Epstein preyed on her at his homes in New York and Paris.

According to Craig Unger's book "American Kompromat":

Trump was often the center of Maxwell's attention, and women who entered Trump's orbit sometimes ended up being associated with both Trump and Epstein, spending part of their time living in a Trump Tower condo and part in Florida, at Mar-a-Lago or one of Epstein's homes.

Among them was a Russian model and beauty-pageant contestant . . . whose journey from the world of beauty pageants and modeling to Trump's Mar-a-Lago and Epstein's island retreat is highly suggestive in terms of how Epstein and his associates began manipulating young women.

The story continues:

In the early '90s, before coming to the United States, [the woman] had placed well

in a number of beauty pageants—coming in second in Miss Russia 1993 and winning the 1994 Miss Baltic Sea title that year. In 1995, she left Moscow, spent six weeks learning English in St. Petersburg—

That is St. Petersburg, FL, not Russia—

and was profiled in the Tampa Tribune as "reigning Miss Russia." And before long, she met Donald Trump.

Notwithstanding the fact that Trump was still married to his second wife, Marla Maples, [the woman] moved into a 30th-floor condo in Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue.

There, according to an item in the New York Post, her lavish accommodations were taken care of "courtesy of an unidentified sugar daddy."

[S]he spent time with both Trump and Epstein. Flight logs released by a federal judge in New York in 2019 showed that in February 1999, [the woman], then 27, flew on board Epstein's Gulfstream, the so-called Lolita Express, with Maxwell and Prince Andrew, from Epstein's Little St. James (a.k.a. "Pedophile Island") back to Florida.

Trump has tried to distance himself from his former friend, the monstrous pedophile who is believed to have abused at least a thousand women and girls. It is worth taking a look at how the friendship between Trump and Epstein allegedly soured. There are varying accounts as to whether Trump ever banned Epstein from Mar-a-Lago over his recruitment of spa workers from the resort.

But we know the falling out was at least, in part, related to a bidding war between Trump and Epstein over a Palm Beach mansion in 2004. Trump won and purchased the property for \$41.3 million.

Just 4 years later and after modest renovations, Trump sold the mansion to billionaire Russian oligarch Dmitry Rybolovlev for \$95 million. At the time, it was reported to be the most expensive residential property sale in U.S. history, pretty stellar investment for Mr. Trump. The oligarch, for his part, after paying the \$95 million, never even moved in.

That brings us back to Russia. Epstein claimed to have given at least some insight on Trump to the Russians. Epstein met on many occasions with Vitaly Churkin, Russia's representative to the United Nations from 2006 until Churkin's death in 2017. Epstein wrote in an email:

Churkin was great. He understood Trump after our conversations. It is not complex. He must be seen to get something its that simple.

Epstein wrote in 2018 to Thorbjorn Jagland, a former Prime Minister of Norway, who was then head of the Council of Europe:

I think you might suggest to Putin, that Lavrov, can get insight on talking to me.

That appears to be a reference to Sergey Lavrov, Russian's Minister of Foreign Affairs. The email was sent prior to the Helsinki summit between Trump and Putin.

In another email to Jagland, Epstein wrote that he wanted to help Putin and Russia "reinvent the financial system."

A 2017 FBI report based on a confidential human source claims that Epstein was "President Vladimir Putin's wealth manager."

Epstein tried several times to meet with Putin, often via Jagland, although it is unclear if any such meeting took place. But Putin is named almost 1,000 times in the latest tranche of Epstein file documents, and there are almost 10,000 references in the documents to Moscow.

Epstein roped many Russian and Eastern European girls and women into his trafficking operation.

The New York Magazine profile of Epstein published all the way back in 2002 reads:

Indeed, at a party at Maxwell's house, her friends say, one is just as apt to see Russian ladies of the night as one is to see Prince Andrew.

In Ward's 2003 profile of Epstein, a guest described a "cocktail party thrown by Maxwell that Prince Andrew attended, which was filled, she says, with young Russian models."

In a 2010 email, Epstein suggested a young woman as a dinner companion to Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, the former Prince, assuring him that she was "Russian, beautiful and trustworthy."

The Daily Beast recently reported on an alleged classified U.S. intelligence document claiming that "Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor . . . was drawn into Moscow's orbit thanks to his relationship with Jeffrey Epstein, which the Kremlin allegedly used as a route into the British establishment."

In another 2010 email to a person whose name has been redacted, Epstein wrote:

Tomorrow I'm organising a dinner for some new Russian girls. . . . [S]ee you at 10.

He received an email from a redacted sender in 2012 that read:

I have 2 Russian girls for you to meet, one 21, another 24.

A message left for Epstein by one of his employees in 2005 claims French model scout Jean-Luc Brunel had found a "teacher" who could give Epstein "free lessons."

He has a teacher for you to teach how to speak Russian. She is two times eight years old. Not blonde.

"Two times eight years old."

According to "American Kompromat";

In addition to whatever legitimate careers Brunel may have fostered, as a "model scout," he also allegedly hired "scouters" to identify, procure, and transport underage girls, many 15 years of age and under, hire them to give "massages" and traffic them.

Brunel was found hanged in his French jail cell in 2022 after being arrested on rape and sex trafficking charges.

Bill Gates appears. He has said he had affairs with two Russian women, which Epstein later discovered.

Somewhere along the way, Epstein struck up a relationship with Sergei Belyakov, Russia's former Deputy Minister of Economic Development and a

graduate of the FSB, Russia's intelligence academy. Epstein introduced him to contacts like Peter Thiel, the tech billionaire who would go on to give \$10 million to the super PAC that helped elect now-Vice President JD Vance to the Senate in 2022.

In 2015, Epstein warned Belyakov that "a Russian girl from Moscow . . . is attempting to blackmail a group of powerful businessmen in New York." It was, Epstein said, "bad for business for everyone involved." Belyakov responded back with information about the woman who he said worked in the "sex and escort" business. The FSB academy graduate said he would meet with someone who knows her.

The following year, Belyakov told Epstein he had a new position at the Russian Direct Investment Fund, the Russian sovereign wealth fund, headed by current Putin envoy Kirill Dmitriev—the same guy who was caught in those friendly leaked phone calls with Steve Witkoff that I mentioned earlier.

Masha Drokova, a former spokesperson for Nashi, the pro-Kremlin youth movement, was in regular touch with Epstein in the last couple of years before his death in prison. She was ostensibly helping Epstein with his public relations. According to the Washington Post, she was "the subject of the 2011 documentary 'Putin's Kiss,' whose title refers to a widely publicized award ceremony in which she received a medal from Putin and spontaneously kissed him on the cheek."

In a 2017 email, Drokova asked Epstein to connect her with "adequate Russian oligarchs." The Post reported in 2022 that her fundraising pitches highlighted her ties to wealthy Russians, although Drokova denied writing those emails and said she did not receive Russian funding.

Epstein advised Drokova as she launched her Silicon Valley venture capital firm, and she introduced Epstein to the contacts she had made in the tech world.

In one email interaction in 2017, Drokova, after claiming to meet billionaire Jeff Bezos, tells Epstein she is "trying to understand what she is not understanding about him." Epstein writes back that Bezos is "smart, fun, and visionary. He is a very nice person. Probaly [sic] the best in the valley among the Bs."

The files also indicate Epstein had dealings with Oleg Deripaska, a Russian billionaire who the Treasury Department identified as a money launderer for Vladimir Putin. Deripaska also cultivated a friendship with Peter Mandelson, a senior figure in Britain's Labour Party. Mandelson tried to use Deripaska's contacts to acquire a last-minute Russian visa for Epstein in 2010.

Correspondence also shows Epstein's assistant trying to set up a meeting for Epstein and Deripaska in Moscow or Paris.

There is also audio of Epstein advising then-Israel Prime Minister Ehud

Barak to have dinner with Putin to line up work after he leaves government.

There is at least one itinerary for a lengthy trip across Russia and photos of Epstein and Ghislaine in what is believed to be Russia, including with people who appear to be Russian soldiers.

Umar Dzhabrailov, a former Russian senator who committed suicide in recent days, described Maxwell as "a soulmate." Epstein had a series of Russian visas between 2011 and his death in 2019.

Epstein's crimes left a long money trail, and that trail winds back to Russia. Ranking member of the Finance Committee RON WYDEN has doggedly sought the truth about Epstein's transactions with Russian banks and Eastern European entities. One suspicious activity report filed by JPMorgan Chase after Epstein's death shows that between 2003 and 2019, Epstein conducted 4,725 wire transactions totaling over \$1 billion. And that is just one bank. Epstein used multiple banks. According to JPMorgan Chase, the wire activity was flagged for the suspicious activity report for being "consistent with . . . alleged sex trafficking of minors" and for involving "the high risk jurisdiction of the Russian Federation."

CNN notes that two accounts included in the suspicious activity report were linked to now-sanctioned Russian banks Alfa-Bank and Sberbank. Also named in the suspicious activity reports were Maxwell, associated entities like Brunel's MC2 Model Management, and various women and girls.

Let's go back to the journalist Vicky Ward:

[S]ources, who range from former arms dealers to former spies—and also Hoffenberg—suggest that Epstein, who lacked any sort of moral compass, decided to . . . compromise influential people by recording them doing things they wouldn't want made public. . . . And once he got out of jail, in the last 10 years of his life, Epstein bragged to various people, including journalists, that he was advising a whole assortment of foreign leaders who included Vladimir Putin, Mohammed bin Zayed, Mohammed Bin Salman, various African dictators, Israel, the British—and, of course, the Americans.

He also told several of the same people that he was making a fortune out of arms, drugs, and diamonds.

I am still reading the same quote:

He was known in the intelligence world as a "hyper-fixer," somebody who can go between different cultures and networks."

Epstein was, of course, known for his parties, which he insisted on hosting in his various mansions where he could completely control the environment. Many of Epstein's victims have said they believe they were recorded.

Virginia Giuffre wrote in her posthumous memoir that Epstein had a "huge library of videotapes" and a room in his New York home where monitors displayed real-time surveillance footage from his properties.

"He explicitly talked about using me and what I'd been forced to do with cer-

tain men as a form of blackmail, so these men would owe him favors," she wrote.

Another survivor said Epstein once walked her through his mansion pointing out pinhole-sized cameras. He boasted that they were in every room.

According to Epstein's emails, in 2014, he directed a staffer to procure hidden cameras, which were installed in tissue boxes.

The New York Times obtained photos of the interior of Epstein's New York mansion, which show a camera installed near the ceiling of the master bedroom and another along the molding of an adjoining room. The Times also spotted cameras near a suite of bathrooms on the same floor as Epstein's bedroom.

When police searched his Palm Beach home in 2005, they "located two covert (hidden) cameras." Both cameras were located inside clocks—one by a desk and the other in a garage.

It is worth noting that Epstein often seemed to get tipped off in advance as to when the Palm Beach police would be dropping by. Epstein is said to have once told an ex-girlfriend:

I collect people. I own people. I can damage people.

The disgraced financier Hoffenberg allegedly claimed to the National Enquirer in a final account before his death that "wherever Epstein was entertaining, he [and Ghislaine] were tapping." That report was only released last summer, as Hoffenberg had asked the Enquirer not to publish his comments until 3 years after his death.

According to the Daily Beast, the former U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Alex Acosta, is once said to have claimed Epstein "belonged to intelligence" and that the decision to let him off easy in 2008 was made above his "pay grade."

The Prime Minister of Poland, a country that has extensive experience with Russian intelligence operations, has opened an investigation into potential links between Epstein and Russian intelligence. Prime Minister Tusk said:

More and more leads, more and more information, and more and more commentary in the global press all relate to the suspicion that this unprecedented paedophilia scandal was co-organised by Russian intelligence services.

According to alleged anonymous intelligence sources published in the British tabloid the Daily Mail last month, some believe:

Jeffrey Epstein was running "the world's largest honey trap operation" on behalf of the KGB when he procured women for his network of associates.

I want to stress that we don't have answers here. Epstein was an inveterate liar and criminal who often sought to exaggerate his own power and influence, and the Epstein files need to be viewed through that lens. He could have been working with an intelligence agency or several intelligence agencies. He could have just been what the Russians call a useful idiot. We may never know.

What we do know is that a significant number of powerful men—our current President, some of his Cabinet Secretaries, tech billionaires like Elon Musk, Bill Gates, and others—were very mixed up with Epstein at different times, and Epstein seems to have been very mixed up with Russia.

We also know that there is a coverup afoot at the Department of Justice. The MAGA Department of Justice is trying to shield Trump from something in the Epstein files. We know that documents in the files about President Trump that should be released have not been released. The missing files—first discovered by independent journalist Roger Sollenberger—are alleged to detail claims by an Epstein accuser who said she was also sexually assaulted by President Trump when she was a young teenager.

One of the great forces that Washington runs on is normalcy bias. It is often in the interest of the bureaucratic establishment to look skeptically toward outlandish or extreme stories because, in most cases, the truth is more ordinary than what may first appear. What I have done here today is lay out the facts, as documented by the many brave survivors who have come forward at great personal risk, as well as the many journalists who have tried and continue to try to get to the truth.

As a lawyer, I know that you can prove cases with circumstantial evidence. You don't always need the smoking gun. Here, we have links with Russia, girls from Russia, money from Russia, people from Russia, deals and transactions with Russia, contacts with people with Russian intelligence, news reports exploring contacts with Russia, and an official investigation from the Government of Poland into an Epstein-Russia connection. Sometimes, with a little imagination, you have the chance to see what is right in front of your face.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this document, which is a bibliography of all of the sources that I quoted from in this speech, be printed in the RECORD and appended at the conclusion of my remarks.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

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62. <https://www.npr.org/transcripts/nx-sl-5725005>
63. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2026/02/11/was-jeffrey-epstein-russian-spy/>
64. <https://united2media.com/latest-news/jeffrey-epstein-reportedly-ran-kremlins-largest-honeytrap-and-blackmail-operation-15534>

65. <https://www.justice.gov/epstein/files/DataSet10/EFTA01648787.pdf>

66. <https://www.cnn.com.com/2025/10/31/politics/jeffrey-epstein-financial-records-unsealed-jp-morgan>

67. <https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-features/jeffrey-epstein-steven-hoffenberg-intelligence-agencies-spy-1197708/>

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69. <https://www.the-independent.com/news/world/americas/us-politics/virginia-giuffre-book-epstein-trump-prince-andrew-b2849777.html>

70. <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/10/us/epstein-hidden-cameras.html>

71. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/jul/25/meet-julie-k-brown-the-woman-who-brought-down-jeffrey-epstein>

72. <https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2019/08/curious-sociopathy-of-jeffrey-epstein-ex-girlfriends?srsltid=AfmBOory9fiRs7GAayqsvC BCF-ocZX NFWg Jn0nJAD m0Gau 7fPCox Y3So>

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75. <https://www.reuters.com/world/poland-probe-possible-links-between-epstein-russia-pm-tusk-says-2026-02-03/>

76. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15516349/Epsteins-sex-empire-KGB-honeytrap-Paedophile-financier-Putin-Russian-girls.html>

77. <https://sollenbergerrc.substack.com/p/doj-removed-record-of-multiple-fbi>

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUDD). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 655.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of the following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601: to be General, Lt. Gen. Joshua M. Rudd.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented

under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 655, the following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601: to be General, Lt. Gen. Joshua M. Rudd.

John Thune, Bernie Moreno, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, John R. Curtis, John Boozman, Ted Cruz, Tommy Tuberville, Jon A. Husted, Marsha Blackburn, Ted Budd, David McCormick, Pete Ricketts, Todd Young, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Ashley B. Moody, Steve Daines.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

HOUSING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for substitute amendment No. 4308.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on substitute amendment No. 4308 to Calendar No. 343, H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes.

John Thune, Mike Crapo, Jim Justice, Lindsey Graham, Eric Schmitt, Chuck Grassley, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Rounds, John Barrasso, Roger Marshall, Tim Sheehy, Markwayne Mullin, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Jim Banks, Joni Ernst, Pete Ricketts, John R. Curtis.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the underlying bill, Calendar No. 343, H.R. 6644.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 343, H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes.

John Thune, Mike Crapo, Jim Justice, Lindsey Graham, Eric Schmitt, Chuck Grassley, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Rounds, John Barrasso, Roger Marshall, Tim Sheehy, Markwayne Mullin, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Jim Banks, Joni Ernst, Pete Ricketts, John R. Curtis.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the filing deadline with respect to first-degree amendments to substitute amendment No. 4308 to H.R. 6644 and first-degree amendments to the underlying bill be at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, March 9.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SERVICEMEMBERS' CREDIT MONITORING ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 2074 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2074) to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to expand the definition of an active duty military consumer for purposes of certain credit monitoring requirements, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2074) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2074

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Servicemembers' Credit Monitoring Enhancement Act".

SEC. 2. CREDIT MONITORING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 605A(k) (15 U.S.C. 1681c-1(k))—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection: “(A) ARMED FORCES.—The term ‘armed forces’ has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.

“(B) ARMED FORCES MEMBER CONSUMER.—The term ‘armed forces member consumer’ means a consumer who, regardless of duty status, is a member of the armed forces.”;

and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “active duty military consumer” and inserting “armed forces member consumer”; and

(2) in section 625(b)(1)(K) (15 U.S.C. 1681t(b)(1)(K)), by striking “active duty military consumers” and inserting “armed forces member consumers”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

MORNING BUSINESS

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC.

CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Please find enclosed the following notification from the Department of State.

Department Notification Number: RSAT 26-0G.

Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 26-0G. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 17-80 of January 18, 2018.

Recipients:

Speaker of the House of Representatives
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Sincerely,

PAUL D. GUAGLIANONE,
Senior Bureau Official,
Bureau of Legislative Affairs.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TRANSMITTAL NO. RSAT
26-0G

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability Pursuant to Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Belgium.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 17-80; Date: January 18, 2018; Implementing Agency: Air Force.

(iii) Description: On January 18, 2018, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 17-80 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of thirty-four (34) F-35 joint strike fighter conventional takeoff and landing (CTOL) aircraft; and thirty-eight (38) Pratt & Whitney F-135 engines (34 installed, 4 spares). These services included electronic warfare systems; command, control, communications, computer and intelligence/communications, navigational, and identification;

autonomic logistics global support system; autonomic logistics information system; full mission trainer; weapons employment capability, and other subsystems, features, and capabilities; F-35 unique infrared flares; re-programming center; F-35 performance based logistics; software development/integration; aircraft ferry and tanker support; support equipment; tools and test equipment; communications equipment; spares and repair parts; personnel training and training equipment; publications and technical documents; U.S. Government and contractor engineering and logistics personnel services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total value was \$6.53 billion. Major defense equipment (MDE) constituted \$4.53 billion of this total.

This transmittal notifies the inclusion of the following MDE items: eleven (11) F-35 joint strike fighter CTOL aircraft; and twelve (12) Pratt & Whitney F-135 engines (11 installed, 1 spare). The following non-MDE items will also be included: drag chute system integration kits; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total value of the new items is \$3.3 billion. The estimated MDE value will increase by \$1.7 billion to a revised \$6.23 billion. The estimated non-MDE value will increase by \$1.6 billion to a revised \$3.6 billion. The estimated total case value will increase by \$3.3 billion to a revised \$9.83 billion. MDE constitutes \$6.23 billion of this total.

(iv) Significance: This notification accounts for requested additional MDE and non-MDE items not included in the original notification. The proposed articles and/or services will provide Belgium with a credible defense capability to deter aggression in the region and ensure interoperability with U.S. forces.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally which is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to items reported here.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: February 26, 2026.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC.

CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Please find enclosed the following notification from the Department of State.

Department Notification Number: RSAT 26-23.

Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 26-23 concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Jordan for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$280 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Recipients:

Speaker of the House of Representatives
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Sincerely,

PAUL D. GUAGLIANONE,
Senior Bureau Official,
Bureau of Legislative Affairs.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TRANSMITTAL NO. RSAT
26-23

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

(i) (U) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Jordan.

(ii) (U) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$0.
Other \$280 million.
Total \$280 million.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing (FMF).

(iii) (U) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

None.

Non-MDE:

The following non-MDE items will be included: Ku band multi-function radio frequency system radar and command and control system; generators; global positioning system receivers; spare and repair parts; special tools and test equipment; technical manuals and publications; training devices; new equipment training; U.S. Government and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics personnel services; concurrent spare parts, systems integration, and check-out support; field service representative support; contractor logistics support; program management reviews; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) (U) Military Department: Army (JO-B-YFX).

(v) (U) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) (U) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) (U) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) (U) Date Report Delivered to Congress: February 26, 2026.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

(U) Jordan—Ku band multi-function radio frequency system (KuMRFS) radars

(U) The Government of Jordan has requested to buy KuMRFS radars and command and control system; generators; global positioning system receivers; spare and repair parts; special tools and test equipment; technical manuals and publications; training devices; new equipment training; U.S. Government and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics personnel services; concurrent spare parts, systems integration, and

checkout support; field service representative support; contractor logistics support; program management reviews; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$280 million.

(U) This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a Major Non-NATO Ally that is an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

(U) The proposed sale will improve Jordan's capability to meet current and future threats by sustaining a credible force that can deter adversaries and participate in CENTCOM operations. Jordan will have no difficulty absorbing these articles into its armed forces.

(U) The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

(U) The principal contractor will be RTX Missile Defense Technologies, located in Tucson, AZ. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

(U) Implementation of this proposed sale will require the temporary assignment of thirteen U.S. Government and twenty-four contractor representatives to Jordan for a duration of up to five years to support fielding, training, and sustainment activities.

(U) There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 26-23

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. (U) The Ku band multi-function radio frequency system (KuMRFS) is a multi-function radar. The radar is capable of providing simultaneous counter-unmanned aircraft systems and counter-rocket, artillery, and mortar air surveillance, and effector support missions. The system leverages M-code global positioning system technology ensuring secure and precise navigation and timing. KuMRFS radar provides three-dimensional target location data enhancing situational awareness for command-and-control systems.

2. (U) The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. (U) If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. (U) A determination has been made that Jordan can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. (U) All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Jordan.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act

requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC.

CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Please find enclosed the following notification from the Department of State.

Department Notification Number: RSAT 26-0D.

Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 26-0D. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 22-60 of November 9, 2022.

Recipients:

Speaker of the House of Representatives
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Sincerely,

PAUL D. GUAGLIANONE,
Senior Bureau Official,
Bureau of Legislative Affairs.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TRANSMITTAL NO. RSAT
26-0D

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability Pursuant to Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act

(i) (U) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Lithuania.

(ii) (U) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 22-60; Date: November 9, 2022; Implementing Agency: Army.

Funding Source: National Funds and Foreign Military Financing.

(iii) (U) Description: On November 9, 2022, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 22-60 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of eight (8) M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) Launchers; thirty-six (36) M30A2 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) Alternative Warhead (AW) Missile Pods with Insensitive Munitions Propulsion System (IMPS); thirty-six (36) M31A2 GMLRS Unitary High Explosive (HE) Missile Pods; thirty-six (36) XM403 Extended Range GMLRS (ER GMLRS) Alternative Warhead (AW) Missile Pods with IMPS; thirty-six (36) XM404 Extended Range GMLRS (ER GMLRS) Unitary Pods with IMPS; and eighteen (18) M57 Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) Missile Pods. Also included were M28A2 Low Cost Reduced Range Practice Rocket (LCRRPR) pods; International Field Artillery Tactical Data System (IFATDS); battle management system Vehicle Integra-

tion Kits; ruggedized laptops; training equipment publications for HIMARS and munitions; and other related elements of program and logistics support. The estimated total case value was \$495 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$440 million of this total.

On April 24, 2025, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 0B-25 of a correction to the previous designation of the IFATDS from non-MDE to MDE. Because reporting the quantity of MDE items is required, this transmittal also reported the quantity of eighteen (18) for the IFATDS. The following non-MDE items were also included: communications equipment, including AN/PRC-160 and AN/PRC-167 radios and associated accessories and training; Defense Advanced Global Positioning System (GPS) Receivers (DAGRs); AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loaders; and other related elements of program and logistics support. The estimated total cost of the new items was \$21.5 million. The estimated total cost of the new MDE items was \$11.5 million, but did not result in a net increase in total cost of MDE, which remained at \$440 million. The estimated total cost of new non-MDE items was \$10 million, but did not result in a net increase in total cost of non-MDE, which remained at \$55 million. The estimated total case value remained at \$495 million.

This transmittal notifies the addition of the following MDE items: eight (8) M142 HIMARS launchers; thirty-six (36) M30A2 GMLRS AW missile pods with IMPS; thirty-six (36) M31A2 GMLRS Unitary HE missile pods; and eight (8) IFATDS. The following non-MDE items will also be included: battle management system Vehicle Integration Kits; M28A2 LCRRPR pods; ruggedized laptops; training equipment publications for HIMARS and munitions; communications equipment, including the AN/PRC-160, AN/PRC-163, AN/PRC-167 radios, and associated accessories and training; KIK-11 and AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loaders; and other related elements of program and logistics support. The estimated total value of new items is \$360.3 million. The estimated MDE value will increase by \$247.8 million to a revised \$608.1 million. The estimated non-MDE value will increase by \$112.5 million to a revised \$167.5 million. The estimated total case value will increase by \$360.3 million to a revised \$855.3 million. MDE constitutes \$608.1 million of this total.

(iv) (U) Significance: The inclusion of this MDE represents an increase in capability over what was previously notified. The proposed sale will contribute to Lithuania's military goals of updating its capability while further enhancing interoperability with the United States and other allies. Lithuania intends to use these defense articles and services to modernize its armed forces and expand its capability to strengthen its homeland defense and deter regional threats.

(v) (U) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a NATO Ally that is an important force for ensuring peace and stability in Europe.

(vi) (U) Sensitivity of Technology:

The AN/PRC-163 multi-channel handheld radio is a versatile, secure solution that leverages crossbanding to provide simultaneous data and voice across satellite communications (SATCOM), Line-of-Sight, and Mobile Adhoc Networking modes. As mission needs evolve, this software-defined handheld supports fast, in-field updates to new capabilities. An external mission module hardware interface allows warfighters to quickly add options including intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance video and SATCOM.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) (U) Date Report Delivered to Congress: February 27, 2026.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I support the measure offered by Senator MURRAY to appropriate funds for the Transportation Security Administration, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, and other Agencies within the Department of Homeland Security. I regret that this measure was blocked by the Senator from Alabama and urge the Senate to pass the measure.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2904. A communication from the Section Chief, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interim Guidance on Special Depreciation Allowance for Qualified Production Property" (Notice 2026-16) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 27, 2026; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2905. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Policy and Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Alaska; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan for the Second Implementation Period" (FRL No. 11133-02-R10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2906. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Indonesia in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-098) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2907. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 3(d)(3) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the re-export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Ukraine in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-124) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2908. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Ukraine in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-142) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2909. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant

to law, the Department of Education's Semi-annual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2910. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, a report of proposed legislation entitled "the Judicial Space and Facilities Management Effectiveness Act of 2026"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2911. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (24-1.5e)" (1916-02-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 27, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2912. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementing Statutory Addition of Certain Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) to the Toxics Release Inventory Beginning with Reporting Year 2026" ((RIN2070-AL34) (FRL No. 9427.3-02-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 27, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2913. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Moderate Attainment Plan Elements for the Allegan County, Berrien County, and Muskegon County Areas for the 2015 Ozone Standard" (FRL No. 12810-02-R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 27, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2914. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Connecticut; State Implementation Plan Revisions Required as a Result of a Definition Change Due to the Ozone Reclassification" (FRL No. 12890-02-R1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 27, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2915. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Reporting Emission Data, Emission Fees, and Process Information" (FRL No. 13059-02-R7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 27, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2916. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extending the Reporting Deadline Under the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule for 2025" (FRL No. 12720.1-02-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 27, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2917. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Metal Halide Lamp Fixtures" (RIN1904-AF44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2026; to

the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2918. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Small Electric Motors" (RIN1904-AF39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2026; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2919. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Montana Regulatory Program" (RIN1218-AC93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2026; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2920. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "North Dakota Regulatory Program" (ND-056-FOR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2026; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2921. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rescission of the 'Ten-Day Notices and Corrective Action for State Regulatory Program Issues' Rule, Issued April 9, 2024" ((RIN1029-AC89) (Docket No. OSM-2025-0018)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2026; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2922. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "West Virginia Regulatory Program" (WV-120-FOR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2026; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 3798. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish criminal offenses with respect to violations involving ATMs, regardless of whether the ATM is located on the physical premises of a financial institution, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Robert Cekada, of Florida, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

Andrew B. Davis, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

John Thomas Shepherd, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas.

Anna St. John, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Christopher R. Wolfe, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

Robert Rotter, of Iowa, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Iowa for the term of four years.

Daniel Satterlee, of South Dakota, to be United States Marshal for the District of South Dakota for the term of four years.

David St. Pierre, of Maine, to be United States Marshal for the District of Maine for the term of four years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LEE:

S. 3998. A bill to establish a regulatory sandbox program under which agencies may provide waivers of agency rules and guidance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 3999. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that women veterans may schedule appointments for women's specialty care under the laws administered by the Secretary without requiring a referral, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. COTTON, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. 4000. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Transportation from entering into, extending, or renewing a contract with, or awarding a grant to, an entity that uses or procures light detection and ranging technology from certain foreign entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. BENNET, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 4001. A bill to amend title XVI of the Social Security Act to update eligibility for the supplemental security income program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. MCCORMICK):

S. 4002. A bill to raise the Foreign Service mandatory retirement age by aligning it with the Social Security Full Retirement Age, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 4003. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to impose additional requirements with respect to importers of record, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 4004. A bill to authorize the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces to combat transnational organized crime and to reduce the availability of illicit narcotics in the United States by using a prosecutor-led, multi-agency approach to enforcement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself, Mr. CURTIS, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 4005. A bill to amend the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978 to extend the authorization of a disposal site in Mesa County, Colorado, until the site is filled to designed capacity; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. ALSOBROOKS):

S. 4006. A bill to provide protection for survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, and sex trafficking under the Fair Housing Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. GALLEGGO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KIM, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 4007. A bill to restore competition in the meatpacking industry by reducing excessive concentration and market power and ultimately reduce prices for American consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 4008. A bill to reauthorize programs relating to oral health promotion and disease prevention; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 4009. A bill to provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to forced organ harvesting within the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 4010. A bill to clarify the classification of service provider payees as employees or independent contractors in Federal law; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 4011. A bill to reauthorize the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act of 1998; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CURTIS (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COONS, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 4012. A bill to establish a commission on fiscal responsibility and reform; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 4013. A bill to enforce the rights protected by the Second and Fourteenth Amendments against the States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 4014. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Nisqually Indian Tribe the Clear Creek Hatchery infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. KIM, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 4015. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to restrict the sale and procurement of certain weapons and ammunition by the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 4016. A bill to amend title III of the Social Security Act and the Federal Unemployment Tax Act to require identity verification procedures and data matching, to prevent unemployment fraud, and to strengthen work search requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 4017. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to ban certain Government officials from trading event contracts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 4018. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to expand access to school-wide arts and music programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 4019. A bill to require the advice and consent of the Senate for any modification to the 1966 agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom concerning the British Indian Ocean Territory, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 4020. A bill to authorize a grant program for the development and implementation of housing supply and affordability plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 4021. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a business tax credit for the purchase of zero-emission electric lawn, garden, and landscape equipment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 4022. A bill to establish an interagency task force on expediting disaster relief funding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. COTTON, Mr. COONS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 4023. A bill to establish the America's Living Library Project, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 4024. A bill to strengthen oversight, accountability, and recovery of Federal funds administered through State block grants and other pass-through mechanisms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. KIM, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. COONS):

S.J. Res. 112. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce relating to "One Year Suspension of Expansion of End-User Controls for Affiliates of Certain Listed Entities"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S.J. Res. 113. A joint resolution providing congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency relating to "Rescission of Principles for Climate-Related Financial Risk Management for Large Financial Institutions"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S.J. Res. 114. A joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. SCHIFF):
S.J. Res. 115. A joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. KAINE):
S.J. Res. 116. A joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. BOOKER):

S.J. Res. 117. A joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. MURPHY):

S.J. Res. 118. A joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. KELLY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mrs. MOODY):

S. Res. 627. A resolution designating March 5, 2026, as "National Slam the Scam Day" to raise awareness about pervasive scams and to prevent government imposter scams and other types of scams by promoting education about such scams; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. Res. 628. A resolution expressing support for the designation of March 2026 as "Music in Our Schools Month"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 106

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 106, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare coverage for all physicians' services furnished by doctors of chiropractic within the scope of their license, and for other purposes.

S. 161

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) were added as cosponsors of S. 161, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to issue rules relating to the testing procedures used under the New Car Assessment Program of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 522

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 522, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 567

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. 567, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Rhode Island Regiment, in recognition of their dedicated service during the Revolutionary War.

S. 864

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 864, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to apply financial assistance towards the cost-sharing requirements of health insurance plans, and for other purposes.

S. 1032

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1032, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with combat-related disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1175

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1175, a bill to amend section 6903 of title 31, United States Code, to provide for additional population tiers, and for other purposes.

S. 1332

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1332, a bill to provide for increases in the Federal minimum wage, and for other purposes.

S. 1547

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) were added as cosponsors of S. 1547, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to reauthorize the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 1555

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1555, a bill to increase loan limits for loans made to small manufacturers, and for other purposes.

S. 1572

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) were added as cosponsors of

S. 1572, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the Federal carjacking statute.

S. 1932

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1932, a bill to amend the National Housing Act and the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 to include information regarding VA home loans in the Informed Consumer Choice Disclosure required to be provided to prospective FHA borrowers and to require a military service question on the Uniform Residential Loan Application, and for other purposes.

S. 1970

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1970, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the service members of the Military Assistance Command Vietnam-Studies and Observations Group, in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service in South Vietnam, North Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia during the Vietnam War.

S. 2061

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2061, a bill to require the Interagency Working Group on Toxic Exposure to conduct research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of descendants of individuals exposed to toxic substances while serving as members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 2220

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2220, a bill to expand presumptions of exposure by members of the Armed Forces to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

S. 2314

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2314, a bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a task force regarding shark depredation, and for other purposes.

S. 2438

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2438, a bill to assist employers providing employment under special certificates issued under section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 in transforming their business and program models to models that support people with disabilities through competitive integrated employment, to phase out the use of such special certificates, and for other purposes.

S. 2667

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Georgia

(Mr. WARNOCK) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2667, a bill to prevent violence in the West Bank and authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to any foreign person endangering United States national security and undermining prospects for a two-state solution by committing illegal violent acts.

S. 2903

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2903, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a group health plan or health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan to provide an exceptions process for any medication step therapy protocol, and for other purposes.

S. 2962

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2962, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the deduction under section 199A to apply to qualified BDC interest dividends in the same manner as qualified REIT dividends.

S. 3062

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3062, a bill to require artificial intelligence chatbots to implement age verification measures and make certain disclosures, and for other purposes.

S. 3314

At the request of Mr. SHEEHY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3314, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to expand a directive of the Veterans Health Administration regarding informed consent to apply to certain types of medications.

S. 3426

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3426, a bill to establish in the Department of State a Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ People, and for other purposes.

S. 3655

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3655, a bill to require the President to remove the extension of certain privileges, exemptions, and immunities to the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices if Hong Kong no longer enjoys a high degree of autonomy from the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

S. 3663

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S.

3663, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to modify delayed notice requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 3712

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3712, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct, and submit to Congress a report describing the results of, a study on the use of home cardiorespiratory monitors for infants, and for other purposes.

S. 3798

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3798, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish criminal offenses with respect to violations involving ATMs, regardless of whether the ATM is located on the physical premises of a financial institution, and for other purposes.

S. 3851

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3851, a bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to ensure adequate staffing and resources for the Institute of Tropical Forestry and the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry.

S. 3855

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) were added as cosponsors of S. 3855, a bill to enhance bilateral defense cooperation between the United States and Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 3909

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3909, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide that the prohibition on the possession of firearms and ammunition by certain aliens shall apply with respect to the use of firearms and ammunition by government entities.

S. 3938

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3938, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize representatives of veterans service organizations to participate in presentations to promote certain benefits available to veterans during pre-separation counseling under the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 107

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 107, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United

States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Beginning of Construction Requirements for Purposes of the Termination of Clean Electricity Production Credits and Clean Electricity Investment Credits for Applicable Wind and Solar Facilities".

S. RES. 52

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 52, a resolution recognizing religious freedom as a fundamental right, expressing support for international religious freedom as a cornerstone of United States foreign policy, and expressing concern over increased threats to and attacks on religious freedom around the world.

AMENDMENT NO. 4322

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4322 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6644, a bill a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4323

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4323 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6644, a bill a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4324

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4324 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6644, a bill a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KIM, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 4007. A bill to restore competition in the meatpacking industry by reducing excessive concentration and market power and ultimately reduce prices for American consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4007

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Family Grocery and Farmer Relief Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The meatpacking industry in the United States is highly concentrated, with a small number of firms controlling a dominant share of beef, chicken, and pork slaughtering and processing.

(2) 4 firms control 85 percent of the beef market and 67 percent of the pork market, which is up from 36 percent and 34 percent, respectively, in 1980.

(3) 4 firms control more than 60 percent of the market in chicken processing.

(4) The scale and market dominance of large meatpacking firms create substantial barriers to entry and expansion for independent and regional processors, limiting competitive alternatives for producers and consumers.

(5) This highly consolidated meatpacking market has real consequences for farmers, workers, and consumers.

(6) Meatpackers have repeatedly used their market power in ways that suppress wages, destroy jobs through strategic plant shut-downs, and subject workers to extremely dangerous conditions while prices are to their advantage.

(7) Extreme concentration in meatpacking has resulted in diminished bargaining power for independent producers, increased vulnerability to unfair and discriminatory practices, and reduced economic viability for rural communities.

(8) Consumers are paying more for meat, with the Department of Agriculture reporting that ground beef prices have increased about 16.4 percent since last year. Meanwhile, increased revenue is not flowing to farmers and ranchers as—

(A) in 1970, 70 percent of the consumer's beef dollar went to cattle ranchers, but today, ranchers' share of the consumer's beef dollar is closer to 30 percent; and

(B) profits remain with the big 4 covered meatpacking enterprises.

(9) The public interest requires competitive, transparent, and resilient markets for essential food products.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to—

(1) restore competition in the meatpacking industry by reducing excessive concentration and market power;

(2) prohibit and reverse mergers and acquisitions in the meatpacking sector that have materially lessened competition;

(3) authorize and require structural separation, divestiture, or breakup of dominant meatpacking firms, where necessary, to restore competitive market conditions;

(4) ensure that no firm retains or expands market power in United States food and agricultural markets through capital obtained by corruption, bribery, or other unlawful conduct;

(5) deny competitive advantage derived from foreign state-backed or non-market financing that undermines fair competition in United States markets;

(6) protect independent cattle producers from abusive, coercive, or discriminatory practices arising from excessive buyer concentration;

(7) ensure that any restructuring of the industry results in safer, fairer, and more sustainable jobs for workers across the supply chain;

(8) promote the growth and viability of independent and regional meat processors; and

(9) help bring prices down for families in the United States.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **BEEF MEATPACKING MARKET.**—The term “beef meatpacking market” means the market for cattle slaughter and beef processing in the United States, including the national beef market and regional beef markets.

(2) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission” means the Federal Trade Commission.

(3) **COVERED FEEDLOT.**—The term “covered feedlot” means a feedlot with a capacity of 24,000 head of cattle or more.

(4) **COVERED FOREIGN-CONTROLLED MEATPACKING ENTERPRISE.**—The term “covered foreign-controlled covered meatpacking enterprise” means—

(A) JBS S.A. and its affiliates; and

(B) any other entity, as determined by rule by the Commission.

(5) **COVERED MEATPACKING ENTERPRISE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraph (B), the term “covered meatpacking enterprise” has the meaning given the term “packer” in section 201 of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 191).

(B) **RULEMAKING.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall, by rule, define for purposes of this Act—

(i) a de minimus threshold of volume or revenue below which a person shall be excluded from the definition of a covered meatpacking enterprise under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) the requirements that place a person under common control or in affiliation with a covered meatpacking enterprise such that the entity shall be included in the definition of a covered meatpacking enterprise under subparagraph (A).

(6) **CR4.**—The term “CR4” means the sum of the market shares of the 4 largest firms in the relevant market.

(7) **FARMERS' COOPERATIVE.**—The term “farmers' cooperative” means an organization exempt from taxation under section 521 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(8) **FEEDLOT.**—The term “feedlot”—

(A) means any facility that is used in its entirety or in part for the purpose of feeding livestock to be slaughtered, or to be sold for slaughter, by another; and

(B) does not include feeding incidental to the sale or transportation of livestock.

(9) **HHI.**—The term “HHI” means the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index, calculated as the sum of the squares of the market shares of all firms in the relevant market.

(10) **LINE OF PROTEIN.**—The term “line of protein” means livestock, livestock products (as defined in section 2 of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 182), poultry, poultry products (as defined in section 4 of the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 453), meats, or meat food products (as defined in section 1 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601)) in each of the following product categories:

(A) Beef (including cattle slaughter, beef processing, and beef products).

(B) Pork (including hog slaughter, pork processing, and pork products).

(C) Poultry (including chicken slaughter, processing, and chicken products).

(D) Any additional category, as the Commission may, by rule, designate to prevent evasion of this Act.

(11) **MARKET SHARE.**—The term “market share” means the share of total slaughter or processing capacity, volume, or sales in the relevant market, as determined by rule by the Commission.

(12) **NATIONAL BEEF MARKET.**—The term “national beef market” means the market of the United States as a whole, or such broader integrated geographic market as the Commission determines appropriate, for the slaughter of cattle and processing of beef products.

(13) **REGIONAL BEEF MARKET.**—The term “regional beef market” means a geographic market defined by reference to the regional direct slaughter cattle reporting regions of the Department of Agriculture, or any successor system of regional delineation the

Commission determines better reflects competitive conditions.

TITLE I—BREAKING UP THE MEATPACKING INDUSTRY

SEC. 101. LIMITATION ON OPERATION IN MULTIPLE LINES OF PROTEIN.

(a) **PROHIBITION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—It shall be unlawful for a covered meatpacking enterprise to own, control, or operate any entity or combination of entities that engaged in more than 1 line of protein in the United States, in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce.

(2) **PROHIBITION ON NEW ACQUISITIONS.**—On and after the date of enactment of this Act, no covered meatpacking enterprise may acquire, directly or indirectly, control of assets or operations in a line of protein other than the line of protein in which the covered meatpacking enterprise already engages, in violation of paragraph (1).

(b) **DIVESTITURE REQUIRED.**—The Commission shall require divestiture pursuant to section 102 of any covered meatpacking enterprise that violates subsection (a).

SEC. 102. DIVESTITURE AUTHORITY.

(a) **COMMISSION AUTHORITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—With respect to any violation of section 101, the Commission shall develop and oversee a divestiture plan for the covered meatpacking enterprise that provides for—

(A) the sale of assets to 1 or more independent entities; or

(B) the creation of 1 or more new, independent entities through spin-off or other structural separation.

(2) **STANDARDS.**—In exercising its authority under paragraph (1), the Commission shall—

(A) act in a manner consistent with the public interest in promoting competition, protecting consumers, producers, and workers, and ensuring a resilient food supply, as described in section 602; and

(B) to the maximum extent practicable, structure divestitures under this section so as to—

(i) avoid reconcentration of assets;

(ii) encourage ownership and control of divested assets by farmers' cooperatives, worker owned enterprises, and other small or mid sized businesses; and

(iii) prevent reacquisition of divested assets by firms whose market power contributed to the need for divestiture.

(b) **TRANSITION; COMPLIANCE PLANS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall develop a plan for the divestiture of each covered meatpacking enterprise that, as of the date of enactment of this Act, is engaged in the processing of more than 1 line of protein in violation of section 101.

(2) **COMMENT.**—Not later than 30 days after the development of a plan under this section, a covered meatpacking enterprise shall submit to the Commission any comments on the plan.

(3) **APPROVAL OF PLAN.**—Following the end of the comment period under paragraph (2), the Commission shall consider and respond to significant comments received under that paragraph and approve a final version of the plan.

TITLE II—SPECIFIC RULES FOR CONSOLIDATION IN BEEF MEATPACKING MARKET

SEC. 201. PROHIBITION ON UNLAWFUL HORIZONTAL CONSOLIDATION.

The Commission shall require divestiture pursuant to section 202, as applicable, if in a regional beef market or in a national beef market—

(1) the HHI exceeds 1800;

(2) the CR4 exceeds 50 percent; or

(3) any covered meatpacking enterprise has a market share of 30 percent or more.

SEC. 202. REGIONAL AND NATIONAL BEEF MARKET DIVESTITURE AUTHORITY AND PROCESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Divestiture under this section may consist of—

(1) sale of 1 or more entities, facilities, or business units to 1 or more independent entities; or

(2) the creation of 1 or more new, independent entities, including through spin-offs or other structural separation.

(b) DIVESTITURE IN REGIONAL BEEF MARKETS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) VIOLATION UNDER HHI OR CR4 MEASURES.—With respect to a condition described in paragraph (1) or (2) of section 201, the Commission shall order divestiture in the regional market as follows:

(i) The largest covered meatpacking enterprise in the regional beef market that owns multiple beef slaughter or processing entities in that region shall divest its largest entity, facility, or business unit in that region.

(ii) After the divestiture required under clause (i), the Commission shall reassess the concentration in the regional beef market under section 201(a).

(iii) If 1 or more thresholds described in section 201 is met after the reassessment under clause (ii), the Commission shall repeat the process described in clauses (i) and (ii) as necessary, including by ordering further divestitures, until no threshold described in section 201 is met or until the Commission determines that further divestiture would not reduce market concentration.

(B) VIOLATION UNDER SINGLE FIRM MARKET SHARE MEASURE.—With respect to a condition described in section 201(3), the Commission shall order divestiture in the regional market of the covered meatpacking enterprise meeting that condition.

(2) USE OF EQUITABLE POWERS TO DECONCENTRATE THE MARKET.—If the Commission is unable to order further divestitures under subparagraph (A)(iii) of paragraph (1) and 1 or more thresholds described in section 201 is still met, such as if the largest covered meatpacking enterprise has only 1 entity, facility, or business unit in the market which cannot be divided, the Commission shall use all equitable powers to otherwise deconcentrate the market until the Commission determines that none of the thresholds described in section 201 are met.

(c) DIVESTITURE IN NATIONAL BEEF MARKET.—In the national beef market, the Commission shall apply a substantially similar process to the process described in subsection (b), as appropriate, to require divestiture by covered meatpacking enterprises (including by ordering divestiture of specified entities, facilities, or business units, or other assets) and use all equitable powers to deconcentrate the market until the Commission determines that none of the thresholds described in section 201 are met.

SEC. 203. VERTICAL CONSOLIDATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that the long-term supply contracts and similar arrangements between large packers and large feedlots can be functionally equivalent to ownership, leading over time to consolidation of feedlots, reduced demand for cattle from independent producers, and diminished competition.

(b) PROHIBITION.—No covered meatpacking enterprise in the beef line of protein may slaughter, in any calendar year, more than 10 percent of the cattle produced by any single covered feedlot.

(c) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If a covered meatpacking enterprise violates subsection (b), any feed-

lot owner or operator that sold some percentage less than 10 percent of its cattle to that covered meatpacking enterprise during the calendar year of the violation may bring a civil action against the covered meatpacking enterprise in the Federal judicial district in which the feedlot is located or in an appropriate United States district court to recover—

(A) an amount equal to 3 times the difference between the highest price the covered meatpacking enterprise paid for cattle from any covered feedlot and the lowest price the feedlot owner or operator received for cattle during the calendar year of the violation multiplied by the total number of cattle the feedlot owner or operator sold overall during that calendar year; and

(B) reasonable costs and attorney's fees.

(2) CIVIL PENALTY TO ADDRESS PRIVATE INJURIES.—The Commission may impose on any covered meatpacking enterprise violating subsection (b) a civil penalty equal to the amount described in paragraph (1)(A) with respect to each feedlot owner or operator that sold less than 10 percent of its cattle to the covered meatpacking enterprise and shall use the amount recovered to compensate such feedlots.

TITLE III—PROHIBITING FOREIGN LEVERAGE OVER THE DOMESTIC BEEF AND PORK MARKETS

SEC. 301. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) A significant portion of domestic beef, pork, and chicken processing capacity is owned or controlled by foreign-based multinational corporations, raising concerns relating to food system resilience, transparency, and national security.

(2) JBS S.A., a foreign-based multinational corporation, is the largest beef processor operating in the United States and has obtained substantial domestic meatpacking assets through a sustained acquisition strategy.

(3) In 2020, J&F Investimentos S.A. (the parent company of JBS S.A.) agreed to pay more than \$280,000,000 to settle Department of Justice and Securities and Exchange Commission charges relating to bribery and other corrupt practices involving foreign government officials to obtain preferential financing and other financial advantages from state-backed institutions. Capital obtained through such corrupt practices was used, in whole or in part, to finance acquisitions of meatpacking and food processing assets in the United States.

(4) The use of corruption-derived or preferential state-backed financing to acquire United States agricultural assets distorted competitive conditions and disadvantaged firms that relied on lawful, market-based financing.

(5) The People's Republic of China has an increasing footprint in the food supply chain in the United States, with Smithfield Foods, owned by the WH Group of the People's Republic of China, holding a major position in United States pork processing and announcing in January 2026 its acquisition of Nathan's Famous, an iconic brand of the United States.

(6) When major processing capacity and widely recognized brands in the United States move under the control of a foreign parent company, the public deserves to know how that affects competition, pricing power, and national security.

SEC. 302. DIVESTITURE PLANS FOR COVERED FOREIGN-CONTROLLED MEATPACKING ENTERPRISES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for any covered foreign-controlled meatpacking enterprise to operate in interstate commerce in the United States.

(b) DIVESTITURE REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall require each covered foreign-controlled meatpacking enterprise violating subsection (a) to carry out a divestiture plan under paragraph (2).

(2) STRUCTURE.—A divestiture plan of a covered foreign-controlled meatpacking enterprise under this paragraph shall—

(A) be developed by the Commission; and

(B) require the covered foreign-controlled meatpacking enterprise to divest its United States meatpacking and food processing operations, which may require that such operations be—

(i) transferred to 1 or more new, independent entities headquartered, incorporated, and controlled by persons domiciled in the United States; or

(ii) sold to 1 or more entities, subject to conditions necessary to preserve and enhance competition and safeguard national security interests, including, as appropriate, in consultation with relevant national security agencies.

(3) STANDARDS.—In exercising its authority under paragraph (1), the Commission shall—

(A) act in a manner consistent with the public interest in promoting competition, protecting consumers, producers, and workers, and ensuring a resilient food supply, as described in section 602; and

(B) to the maximum extent practicable, structure divestitures under this section so as to—

(i) avoid reconcentration of assets;

(ii) encourage ownership and control of divested assets by farmers' cooperatives, worker owned enterprises, and other small or mid sized businesses; and

(iii) prevent reacquisition of divested assets by firms whose market power contributed to the need for divestiture.

(4) CONSIDERATION OF CORRUPTION AND UNLAWFUL CONDUCT.—In designing the divestiture plan under this paragraph, the Commission may take into account prior admissions and findings relating to corruption, bribery, and other unlawful conduct used to obtain financing for United States acquisitions, including settlements and judgments under the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977 (15 U.S.C. 78dd-1 et seq.).

(5) EXTENSION.—With respect to a covered foreign-controlled meatpacker, the Commission may grant a single extension of not more than 90 days of the date on which the prohibition under subsection (a) would otherwise apply to the covered foreign-controlled meatpacking enterprise if the Commission certifies to Congress that—

(A) a path to executing a divestiture under this subsection has been identified with respect to such covered foreign-controlled meatpacking enterprise;

(B) evidence of significant progress toward executing such divestiture has been produced with respect to such covered foreign-controlled meatpacking enterprise; and

(C) there are in place the relevant binding legal agreements to enable execution of such divestiture during the period of such extension.

SEC. 303. REVIEW OF OTHER FOREIGN-CONTROLLED MEATPACKING ENTERPRISES.

(a) STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall complete a study of the business practices, financing, ownership structures, and competitive effects of all foreign-controlled entities with significant meatpacking and related operations in the United States, including those of entities engaged in beef or pork production and processing.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Commission shall consult with appropriate national security agencies, including the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Justice, and any other relevant agency as determined by the Commission.

(c) AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE NEED FOR DIVESTMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may determine, based on the study and consultations under subsections (a) and (b), that divestment, structural separation, or other remedial action is needed with respect to such foreign-controlled entities to protect competition, national security, or the resilience of the United States food system.

(2) CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW.—

(A) SUBMISSION.—Before the Commission may require divestment, structural separation, or other remedial action under paragraph (1), the Commission shall submit to each House of Congress the determination under that paragraph and Congress shall review the determination pursuant to subparagraph (B).

(B) REVIEW.—Congress may, by an Act of Congress, block a determination submitted under subparagraph (A) through the congressional disapproval procedure set forth in section 802 of title 5, United States Code.

(C) REQUIREMENT.—Upon the expiration of the review period under subparagraph (B), the Commission may require the divestiture, structural separation, or other remedial action determined under paragraph (1).

(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that includes a divestment decision with respect to each foreign-controlled meatpacking enterprise.

TITLE IV—BRINGING PRICES DOWN FOR THE AMERICAN FAMILY

SEC. 401. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Families across the United States face persistently high prices for meat, which contribute significantly to overall food costs and household financial strain.

(2) Concentration and limited competition in meat supply chains and retail markets can facilitate unfair and unjustly discriminatory pricing practices, including price discrimination that disadvantages certain retail grocers and the communities they serve.

(3) Unfair and unjustly discriminatory prices and price discrimination for meat products can result in higher prices, reduced availability, and fewer choices for consumers, particularly in rural areas, low-income communities, and communities already experiencing limited grocery access.

(4) Section 406 of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 227), confers authority on the Commission with respect to the retail sale of meat, meat food products, and livestock products in unmanufactured form. Under section 406 of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 227), the Commission may exercise its authority, including its authority under the Federal Trade Commission Act, to prevent unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in or affecting commerce in connection with such retail sales.

(5) The authority extends to conduct that results in unfair and unjustly discriminatory retail meat prices and to price discrimination in meat, which drives prices higher for independent, smaller, or neighborhood grocery stores, where such conduct constitutes an unfair method of competition or an unfair or deceptive act or practice.

(6) Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45) declares unlawful unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in or affecting commerce and authorizes the Commission to prevent such conduct through investigations, administrative proceedings, and judicial enforcement, including with respect to retail and wholesale sales of meat, meat food products, and livestock products in unmanufactured form where such sales are in or affect commerce.

(7) The Commission's authority under section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45), including as informed by its policy statements and enforcement precedent, provides an important tool to challenge unfair methods of competition, coordinated conduct, exclusionary practices, and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in retail and wholesale meat markets that may drive up prices, restrict output, or otherwise harm consumers, small and independent grocers, and fair competition.

(8) Congress intends that the Commission fully and proactively utilize its authority under section 406 of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, its authority under Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45), and all other applicable laws, to identify, prevent, and remedy unfair and unjustly discriminatory retail and wholesale meat prices and price discrimination that harms consumers, honest businesses, and competition.

(9) The authority of the Commission under section 6(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 46(b)) to require reports and answers to specific questions from persons, partnerships, and corporations enables the Commission to study and report on market structure, pricing practices, and competitive conditions in retail and wholesale meat markets, thereby informing effective enforcement and policymaking.

SEC. 402. REPORT ON MAXIMIZING AUTHORITY UNDER SECTION 406 OF THE PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS ACT, 1921, AND RELATED FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION AUTHORITIES.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the congressional committees described in subsection (c) a report describing how the Commission is using and maximizing, and plans to further maximize—

(1) its authorities under section 406 of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 227) and section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45) to address—

(A) unfair and unjustly discriminatory retail and wholesale prices for meat, meat food products, and livestock products in unmanufactured form; and

(B) price discrimination in meat, including beef and pork, that results in higher prices or otherwise less favorable terms for independent, smaller, or neighborhood grocery stores; and

(2) its authority under section 6(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 46(b)) to conduct studies and obtain information, including compulsory process where appropriate, regarding the structure, conduct, and performance of retail and wholesale meat markets, and the pricing, contracting, and merchandising practices of firms operating in those markets.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum—

(1) a description of the Commission's interpretation of its authority under section 406 of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 227), and section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45), as those authorities apply to unfair and unjustly discriminatory retail and wholesale meat prices and to price discrimination in meat affecting retail grocers;

(2) a description of any policies, guidance, rules, or enforcement priorities the Commission has adopted, revised, or is considering to better detect, deter, and remedy such conduct using its authority under section 406 of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 227), section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45), and other applicable statutes;

(3) a summary of any investigations, enforcement actions, or other proceedings, initiated or completed during the 180-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, that involve alleged unfair and unjustly discriminatory retail or wholesale meat prices or price discrimination in meat affecting retail grocers, to the extent practicable and consistent with the protection of confidential or law-enforcement-sensitive information;

(4) an assessment of how unfair and unjustly discriminatory pricing, and price discrimination in meat affecting retail grocers, may contribute to higher prices or reduced access to meat products for consumers in particular geographic areas or demographic groups;

(5) a description of the Commission's coordination with the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Justice, and any other relevant Federal or State agencies with respect to unfair and unjustly discriminatory retail and wholesale meat prices and price discrimination affecting retail grocers;

(6) any recommendations for additional statutory authority, resources, or other measures that the Commission determines would enhance its ability to address unfair and unjustly discriminatory retail and wholesale meat prices and price discrimination in meat that harms competition and consumers;

(7) a description of how the Commission has used, or plans to use, its authority under section 6(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 46(b)) to study and obtain information regarding retail and wholesale meat pricing, fees, discounts, allowances, and other terms or practices that may result in unfair or unjustly discriminatory prices or price discrimination affecting independent, smaller, or neighborhood grocery stores; and

(8) an identification of any studies initiated, ongoing, or completed under section 6(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 46(b)) that relate to retail or wholesale meat markets, food retailing, or related pricing and merchandising practices, and a discussion of how the results of such studies inform, or are expected to inform, the Commission's enforcement, policy development, and coordination with other Federal or State agencies with respect to unfair and unjustly discriminatory retail or wholesale meat prices and price discrimination.

(c) COMMITTEES.—The congressional committees described in this subsection are the following:

(1) The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(2) The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

(3) The Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

(4) The Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(5) The Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives.

(6) The Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

TITLE V—FUNDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW COMPETITORS

SEC. 501. FUNDING FOR FARMER'S COOPERATIVES AND SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means—

(A) a farmers’ cooperative; and

(B) a small business concern (within the meaning of section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)).

(b) AUTHORITY.—The Administrator may provide financial assistance, loan guarantees, technical assistance, and other assistance to eligible entities for the purpose of acquiring, operating, or expanding meatpacking plants or facilities divested pursuant to this Act.

(c) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible entity seeking assistance under subsection (b) shall submit to the Administrator an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Administrator may require.

(d) PREFERENCE.—In evaluating applications submitted under subsection (c), the Administrator shall, to the extent consistent with sound underwriting and program integrity, give preference to eligible entities proposing to use such assistance for locally or regionally focused operations that will enhance competition for livestock and benefit producers and consumers.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

TITLE VI—RULEMAKING AND ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

SEC. 601. ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY.

(a) ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) FAILURE TO DIVEST AS REQUIRED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A failure to divest pursuant to this Act shall be deemed to be an unlawful method of competition in violation of section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45). The Commission shall enforce divestitures under this Act in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this section.

(B) PERSONS SUBJECT TO THE PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS ACT.—Notwithstanding section 5(a)(2) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45(a)(2)) or any jurisdictional limitation of the Commission, the Commission shall also enforce this Act, in the same manner provided in subparagraph (A), with respect to persons, partnerships, or corporations insofar as they are subject to the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 181 et seq.).

(C) PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO DIVEST.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall impose a civil penalty equal to 10 percent of the revenue of the violator during the period of violation for any failure to divest pursuant to this Act.

(ii) ENHANCED PENALTY.—The Commission shall impose a civil penalty equal to 3 times the amount of any damages under section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45) for any knowing violation of this Act.

(2) CIVIL ACTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission is authorized to bring a civil action in an appro-

priate district court of the United States to enforce any divestment plan, order, or condition imposed under this Act, including to enjoin violations, compel compliance, or obtain other appropriate relief.

(B) REMEDIES.—In an action under subparagraph (A), the court may grant any appropriate equitable relief, including specific performance, modification of divestiture terms (only on motion of the Commission), appointment of a monitor, disgorgement or restitution, or such other relief as the interests of justice and competition may require.

(b) USE OF PENALTY FUNDS.—The Commission shall use any civil penalties or other amounts recovered under this Act to promote competition, including by funding the development of new competitors under title V.

(c) REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE.—The Department of Agriculture shall comply with all requests for information and expert assistance made by the Commission in carrying out this Act.

SEC. 602. RULEMAKING.

(a) OBJECTIVES.—In promulgating all rules under this Act relating to required divestitures and divestment plans, the Commission shall aim to—

(1) discourage monopolistic practices;

(2) strengthen and preserve the competitive position of small business concerns;

(3) foster the development of new independent enterprises; and

(4) preference farmers’ cooperatives and small businesses in divestment plans.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall promulgate, in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, such rules and regulations as are necessary to carry out this Act, including rules relating to—

(A) definitions of markets for cattle slaughter and beef processing in the United States;

(B) standards and requirements for divestitures under this Act; and

(C) in consultation with national security agencies, an identification of all covered foreign-controlled meatpacking enterprises.

(2) FAILURE TO PROMULGATE REGULATIONS.—If no regulations have been promulgated by the Commission on or before the date described in this subsection, the requirements of this section shall still apply.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 4008. A bill to reauthorize programs relating to oral health promotion and disease prevention; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4008

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Promoting Dental Health Act”.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS.

Section 317M of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b-14) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(2), by striking “2010 through 2014” and inserting “2027 through 2031”; and

(2) in subsection (f), by striking “2001 through 2005” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 627—DESIGNATING MARCH 5, 2026, AS “NATIONAL SLAM THE SCAM DAY” TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT PERVERSIVE SCAMS AND TO PREVENT GOVERNMENT IMPOSTER SCAMS AND OTHER TYPES OF SCAMS BY PROMOTING EDUCATION ABOUT SUCH SCAMS

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. KELLY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mrs. MOODY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 627

Whereas hundreds of thousands of individuals in the United States are targeted by government imposter scams each year, including government imposter scams related to Social Security, Medicare, the Federal Trade Commission, the United States Postal Service, and the Internal Revenue Service;

Whereas scams cost United States consumers billions of dollars annually, disproportionately affecting older adults;

Whereas, in the first 3 quarters of 2025, the Federal Trade Commission reported that fraud losses totaled over \$12,000,000,000, with over \$700,000,000 reported as imposter scams;

Whereas 1 in 4 people in the United States reported losing money to scams, with a median loss of \$500 per person;

Whereas, according to the Federal Trade Commission, since 2020 there has been more than a four-fold increase in older adults reporting losses of \$10,000 or more, and at times they have lost their entire life savings;

Whereas, since 2013, the fraud hotline of the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate has received more than 12,685 complaints from individuals in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico regarding possible government imposter scams;

Whereas, according to the Federal Trade Commission, in 2025, older adults reported larger median individual losses as a result of government imposter scams than younger adults;

Whereas government imposter scams involve scammers contacting individuals in the United States and claiming to resolve a government-related problem or impersonating employees of government agencies, such as the Social Security Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Federal Trade Commission, the United States Postal Service, and the Internal Revenue Service, to demand payment or personal information, which defrauds the people of the United States and erodes trust in the government agencies that the scammers impersonate; and

Whereas increased awareness of, and education about, government imposter scams help to thwart government imposter scammers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 5, 2026, as “National Slam the Scam Day”;;

(2) recognizes National Slam the Scam Day as an opportunity to raise awareness and amplify the messaging about scams that involve individuals impersonating government employees by any means, including by mail, telephone, text message, email, social media, or internet websites (referred to in this resolution as “government imposter scams”);;

(3) recognizes that law enforcement agencies, consumer protection groups, telephone

companies, area agencies on aging, and financial institutions all play vital roles in—

(A) preventing government imposter scams from targeting the people of the United States; and

(B) educating the people of the United States about government imposter scams;

(4) encourages—

(A) the implementation of policies and programs to prevent government imposter scams; and

(B) the improvement of measures to protect the people of the United States from government imposter scams;

(5) encourages members of the public to—

(A) ignore solicitations from individuals falsely claiming to represent government agencies;

(B) share information about government imposter scams with family and friends; and

(C) report government imposter scams to the corresponding agency, such as—

(i) the Office of the Inspector General of the Social Security Administration;

(ii) the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration; or

(iii) the Federal Trade Commission; and

(6) honors the commitment and dedication of the individuals and organizations that work tirelessly to fight against government imposter scams.

SENATE RESOLUTION 628—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 2026 AS “MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH”

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. LUJÁN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 628

Whereas music has been present in every known human culture throughout history and modern times;

Whereas music is one of the most important manifestations of the cultural heritage of the United States, as music embodies our national identity and illustrates our shared history;

Whereas music education helps communities share ideas and values among cultures and generations, promoting a more cooperative and inclusive citizenry;

Whereas singing has existed in classrooms in the United States since before the signing of the Declaration of Independence;

Whereas, in 1838, music as its own curriculum was first adopted by public authority in the public schools of Boston, Massachusetts;

Whereas the development of a musical people has been and remains dependent on a public commitment to the teaching of music in all schools;

Whereas State legislatures and educational agencies have supported music as part of the regular school curriculum;

Whereas the Every Student Succeeds Act (Public Law 114-95; 129 Stat. 1802) identified music as part of a well-rounded education;

Whereas music is a means for exploring the emotional and aesthetic dimensions of the human experience;

Whereas music holds intrinsic value as an art form, providing opportunity for self-expression, fellowship, and spiritual fulfillment;

Whereas research has documented that participation in school music programs promotes student engagement, leading to improved social and academic outcomes, particularly for at-risk students;

Whereas research has documented that participation in school music programs also promotes cognitive, social, and emotional development, exercising skills valuable to the workforce such as motivation, attentiveness, self-discipline, teamwork, persistence, empathy, respect, and leadership; and

Whereas a disproportionate number of students without access to music education attend schools in urban or rural communities, public schools with a high percentage of students from low-income families, and public schools that are majority Black, Hispanic, or Native American: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of March 2026 as “Music in Our Schools Month”; and

(2) recognizes—

(A) the fundamental importance of music to the culture of the United States;

(B) the long history of music as an integral part of the schools in the United States;

(C) the disparate access to high-quality music education that exists across the United States; and

(D) the need to do more to support the teaching and learning of music in public schools.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4343. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4344. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4308 proposed by Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Ms. WARREN) to the bill H.R. 6644, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4345. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4308 proposed by Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Ms. WARREN) to the bill H.R. 6644, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4346. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. HAWLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4308 proposed by Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Ms. WARREN) to the bill H.R. 6644, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4347. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. HAWLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4308 proposed by Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Ms. WARREN) to the bill H.R. 6644, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4348. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4349. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4350. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4351. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4352. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4353. Mrs. BRITT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4553, making appropriations for en-

ergy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4354. Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CRAPO, and Ms. SMITH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4355. Mr. RICKETTS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4356. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4308 proposed by Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Ms. WARREN) to the bill H.R. 6644, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4357. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4358. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6644, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4359. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6644, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4360. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4361. Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. PADILLA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4362. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4363. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4364. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4365. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6644, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4366. Mr. SCHMITT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4308 proposed by Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Ms. WARREN) to the bill H.R. 6644, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4367. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6644, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4368. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6644, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4369. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6644, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4343. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . HOMES ARE FOR PEOPLE, NOT CORPORATIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CONSUMER REPORTING AGENCY.—The term “consumer reporting agency” has the meaning given the term in section 603 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681a)).

(2) EXCEPTED PURCHASE.—The term “excepted purchase” means any purchase of a single-family home that is—

(A) newly constructed, renovated, or a rental conversion for sale by a large institutional investor and not as a residence rented pending sale;

(B) pursuant to a build-to-rent program where the large institutional investor purchases newly constructed single-family homes to be managed as rental properties, whether as communities exclusively of renter-occupied single-family homes or as communities of single-family homes that are both owner- and renter-occupied;

(C) pursuant to a renovate-to-rent program that—

(i) substantially rehabilitates single-family homes that do not meet structural or core system elements of local building codes; and

(ii) makes improvements in an aggregate dollar amount of not less than 15 percent of the purchase price of the single-family home;

(D) pursuant to a homeownership program that—

(i) requires rental payments and any other fees that are not greater than those collected by the large institutional investor on other similarly situated single-family homes not covered by the eligible homeownership program;

(ii) is subject to a contract between the large institutional investor and renter that shall be considered a consumer credit transaction secured by a dwelling or real property;

(iii) provides for positive reporting of rental payments to consumer reporting agencies for any renter, who shall be informed of and opts into such reporting; and

(iv) requires contribution of meaningful financial support from the large institutional investor, including price concessions, for the purchase of the single-family home by the renter;

(E) pursuant to a program to boost homeownership that—

(i) provides for positive reporting of rental payments to consumer reporting agencies for any renter who is informed of and opts into such reporting;

(ii) provides for the right of first refusal and a 30-day “first look” period; and

(iii) may entail the meaningful financial support from the large institutional investor, including price concessions, for the purchase of a single-family home by the renter (whether it is the home the renter occupies or another home);

(F) in connection with the satisfaction of debts previously contracted in good faith and where the large institutional investor has the right to repossess the single-family home under such contract;

(G) undertaken by a mortgage servicer, lender, or other entity that has a legal right to a single-family home, for the purpose of loss mitigation or compliance with servicing or investor obligations, and not as a long-term investment strategy, and is solely as a result of—

(i) a foreclosure;

(ii) a deed-in-lieu of foreclosure;

(iii) enforcement of a mortgage, deed of trust, or other security interest; or

(iv) operation of law following borrower default;

(H) purchased from another large institutional investor that either owned the single-family home on the date of enactment of this

Act or purchased the single-family home in compliance with this section;

(I) purchased from an investor not covered under this section, so long as the purchase occurred not more than 2 years after the effective date under subsection (f);

(J) newly constructed, renovated, or a rental conversion that is intended and operated for occupancy as part of a community for households with 1 or more members aged 55 years or older, and satisfies visitability standards established by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; or

(K) purchased through a single purchase or combination or series of purchases described in subparagraphs (A) through (J).

(3) SINGLE-FAMILY HOME.—The term “single-family home”—

(A) means a structure that contains 2 or fewer dwelling units that are each intended for residential occupancy by a single household; and

(B) does not include a manufactured home, as defined in section 603 of the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5403).

(4) LARGE INSTITUTIONAL INVESTOR.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “large institutional investor”—

(i) means an investment fund, corporation, general or limited partnership, limited liability company, joint venture, association, or other for-profit entity that is a legal entity structured in a manner that is not aforementioned that—

(I) is engaged, in whole or in part, in the business of investing in, owning, renting, managing, or holding single-family homes; and

(II) alone or in concert with 1 or more other entities, beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, directly or indirectly has investment control of not less than 350 single-family homes in the aggregate, not including any single-family home purchased in an excepted purchase made after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(ii) does not include any local, State, Tribal, or Federal government entity or instrumentality thereof.

(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of this paragraph, an entity has direct or indirect investment control over a single-family home if the entity—

(i) owns, or has primary authority or fiduciary responsibility to make material investment or management decisions relating to, the single-family home;

(ii) is, or directly or indirectly controls, the general partner or managing member of the entity that owns the single-family home;

(iii) is or controls the investment manager, management company, or investment advisor of the entity that owns the single-family home;

(iv) owns or controls more than 25 percent of any class of equity interests of the entity that owns the single-family home, unless such entity is a passive investor; or

(v) otherwise controls the entity that owns the single-family home.

(5) PURCHASE.—The term “purchase” includes any purchase, transfer, or other acquisition of a single family home, including through mergers, acquisitions, construction, foreclosures, or bulk purchases, whether or not for cash consideration.

(b) PROHIBITION ON PURCHASES BY LARGE INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—No large institutional investor may purchase, or enter into a contract to directly or indirectly purchase, any single-family home.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The prohibition under paragraph (1) shall not apply to—

(A) any excepted purchase; or

(B) any purchase of a single-family home in connection with a restructuring or other

reorganization of ownership of single-family homes that were owned or purchased on or before the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to—

(A) require any large institutional investor to divest or otherwise sell any single-family home purchased before the date of enactment of this Act; or

(B) prevent the filing of a petition, or otherwise affect any bankruptcy proceeding, under title 11, United States Code.

(4) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Director of Federal Housing Finance Agency, and the Chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Secretary of the Treasury may issue regulations in accordance with the notice and comment rulemaking procedures under section 553 of title 5, United States Code, to carry out the purposes of this section, including regulations to—

(i) minimize market disruptions upon identifying a risk of material negative impact on the housing market, including an impact on the ability of market participants to dispose of single-family homes in an orderly fashion;

(ii) mitigate, to the extent possible, negative impacts on consumers and communities; and

(iii) further clarify the application of the terms “large institutional investor”, “single-family home”, and “excepted purchase”, if the Secretary of the Treasury determines that such regulations will advance the availability of single-family homes for purchase by individual households.

(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For the avoidance of doubt, no regulation issued under subparagraph (A) may amend the definitions of the terms defined under subsection (a), including to—

(i) alter the scope of excepted purchases in a manner that would undermine the goal of expanding the number of single-family homes available to individual households for purchase;

(ii) alter any type of excepted purchase in a manner that would undermine the goal of expanding the number of single-family homes available to individual households for purchase;

(iii) add any category of large institutional investor as an eligible class if not determined by this section; or

(iv) alter the quantitative threshold in the definition of “large institutional investor”.

(c) DISPOSAL OF HOMES UNDER EXCEPTED PURCHASES.—

(1) REQUIREMENT TO DISPOSE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the purchase by a large institutional investor of a single-family home described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of subsection (a)(2), or with respect to the purchase by a large institutional investor of a single-family home described in subparagraph (J) of subsection (a)(2) that ceases to meet the requirements of such subparagraph, the large institutional investor shall dispose of the single-family home to an individual homebuyer not later than 7 years after the date of purchase.

(B) SUBSEQUENT PURCHASE.—For the avoidance of doubt, any purchase of a single-family home described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (J) of subsection (a)(2) shall remain subject to the terms of this section notwithstanding a subsequent purchase by a large institutional investor pursuant to another subparagraph of subsection (a)(2).

(2) APPLICATION.—

(A) Paragraph (1) shall not apply in the case of any large institutional investor which is a real estate investment trust if the

disposal of such property would be a prohibited transaction that would lead to a 100 percent tax under the statute governing such types of entities.

(B) In the case of a large institutional investor that has an active leasing contract with the renter of a single-family home described in paragraph (1) that went into effect not later than 6 months before the date of disposal under that paragraph, nothing in that paragraph shall be construed to require the large institutional investor to dispose of the single-family home subject to this subsection until the date on which such contract expires.

(3) REQUIREMENTS FOR DISPOSAL.—

(A) RENTER ACCOMMODATIONS.—In the case of a renter described in paragraph (2)(B)—

(i) the large institutional investor may provide the renter with the option to renew the active leasing contract in such subsection, except that the aggregate leasing period of renewals shall not exceed 36 consecutive months;

(ii) the large institutional investor shall confirm whether the renter opts to renew the leasing contract, within the limitations of clause (i), through a written attestation; and

(iii) the large institutional investor shall advertise the home pursuant to subparagraph (C) beginning on the earlier of—

(I) the date on which the renter declines to renew the leasing contract; or

(II) the date on which the leasing contract expires.

(B) RENTER OPTION TO PURCHASE.—Before the large institutional investor disposes of a single-family home described in paragraph (1), the renter of the single-family home described in paragraph (2)(B) shall have the right of first refusal and a 30-day “first look” period to purchase the single-family home.

(C) ADVERTISEMENT OF PROPERTY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—On the date that a renter described in paragraph (2)(B) declines to renew an active leasing contract with a large institutional investor under subparagraph (A), or declines a single-family home under subparagraph (B), the single-family home shall be—

(I) widely advertised and free to access, and listed in publications, which may include internet platforms or a national Multiple Listing Service, by the large institutional investor; and

(II) made broadly accessible to individual homebuyers and the general public, including any licensed real estate agents representing potential buyers.

(ii) COMPLIANCE.—If a single-family home described in paragraph (1) is not purchased, or no offer to purchase is made, by an individual homebuyer within 60 days of the date on which the single-family home is advertised under clause (i), the large institutional investor shall be considered to be in compliance with the disposal requirements under paragraph (1).

(D) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to require a renter to renew a lease or to affect State or local tenant-landlord laws regarding requirements related to lease renewal processes or leasing periods.

(d) ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) CIVIL PENALTIES.—Any large institutional investor that violates subsection (b) or paragraph (1) or (2)(B) of subsection (c) shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000,000 per violation, or 3 times the purchase price of the property involved, whichever is greater, enforced by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(2) TRANSFER TO HUD FOR HOMEOWNERSHIP EXPANSION ACTIVITIES.—For fiscal year 2027 and each fiscal year thereafter, to the extent and in the amounts provided in advance in

appropriations Acts, civil penalties assessed under this section shall be transferred to and available to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to provide additional funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships program under subtitle A of title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12741 et seq.), to be allocated in accordance with the formula under that program, for new construction, acquisition, and rehabilitation of single-family homes and to provide assistance grants to first-time homebuyers, which may be for downpayments, closing costs, and interest rate buydowns.

(e) STUDIES ON LARGE INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS.—

(1) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the prohibition under subsection (b)(1) takes effect, and again not later than 10 years after that date, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs and the House Committee on Financial Services a report on—

(A) the impact of the ownership by large institutional investors of single-family homes on housing availability and affordability for renters and homebuyers; and

(B) the effectiveness of this section in reducing demand by large institutional investors for single-family homes and expanding homeownership for renters and homebuyers.

(2) HUD REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the prohibition under subsection (b)(1) takes effect, and again not later than 10 years after that date, the Secretary of the Housing and Urban Development, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, the Administrator of the Rural Housing Service, the Executive Director of the Loan Guaranty Service of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Chair of Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a report on—

(A) whether there should be adjustments to the definition of the term “large institutional investor”;

(B) the financial impact of this section on large institutional investors, renters, and homebuyers; and

(C) any legislative recommendations regarding ways to improve the authorities provided under this section to increase the supply and affordability of single-family homes for purchase by individual homebuyers.

(3) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(A) this section is intended to expand the number of single-family homes available to individuals for purchase and is aimed at preserving and expanding the supply of single-family homes available to individuals; and

(B) any further study on the effectiveness of this section and any legislative recommendations therefrom should consider this sense of Congress.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The requirements and prohibitions under subsections (b), (c), and (d) of this section—

(1) shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) are repealed on the date that is 15 years after the effective date under paragraph (1).

SA 4344. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4308 proposed by Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Ms. WARREN) to the bill H.R. 6644,

a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 210, add the following:

(e) LIMITATION ON FUNDS BASED ON PROPERTY TAX REVENUE GROWTH.—No funds made available under this section may be obligated or expended for an eligible entity unless the eligible entity submits to the Secretary an annual certification that the aggregate increase in total property tax revenues collected by the eligible entity during the most recently completed fiscal year did not exceed 2 percent over the preceding fiscal year.

SA 4345. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4308 proposed by Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Ms. WARREN) to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 301(d)(2)(C), in the matter preceding clause (i), insert “, consistent with paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 413(b) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17071(b))” after “shall”.

SA 4346. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. HAWLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4308 proposed by Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Ms. WARREN) to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 301, between lines 6 and 7, insert the following:

(g) DISALLOWANCE OF CERTAIN DEDUCTIONS FOR LARGE INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS.—

(1) MORTGAGE INTEREST.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 163 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating subsection (n) as subsection (o) and by inserting after subsection (m) the following new subsection:

“(n) NO DEDUCTION FOR LARGE INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS.—No deduction shall be allowed under this chapter with respect to interest paid or accrued by a large institutional investor (as defined in section 901(a)(4) of the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act).”.

(2) DEPRECIATION.—Section 167 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating subsection (i) as subsection (j) and by inserting after subsection (h) the following new subsection:

“(i) NO DEDUCTION FOR LARGE INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS.—No deduction shall be allowed under this section with respect to any property held by a large institutional investor (as defined in section 901(a)(4) of the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act).”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 4347. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. HAWLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4308 proposed by Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Ms. WARREN) to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing

in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 287 of the amendment, strike lines 12 through 15.

On page 287, line 16 of the amendment, strike “(J)” and insert “(I)”.

On page 287, line 23 of the amendment, strike “(J)” and insert “(I)”.

On page 293, line 21 of the amendment, strike “(J)” and insert “(I)”.

On page 294, line 6 of the amendment, strike “(J)” and insert “(I)”.

SA 4348. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. CRYPTO ATM FRAUD PREVENTION.

(a) REGISTRATION WITH THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.—Section 5330 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “, any person who owns, operates, or manages a virtual currency kiosk in the United States or its territories,” after “similar instruments”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) VIRTUAL CURRENCY; VIRTUAL CURRENCY ADDRESS; VIRTUAL CURRENCY KIOSK; VIRTUAL CURRENCY KIOSK OPERATOR.—The terms ‘virtual currency’, ‘virtual currency address’, ‘virtual currency kiosk’, and ‘virtual currency kiosk operator’ have the meanings given those terms, respectively, in section 5337.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(f) REGISTRATION OF VIRTUAL CURRENCY KIOSK LOCATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the effective date of this subsection, and not less than once every 90 days thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall require virtual currency kiosk operators to submit an updated list containing the physical address of each virtual currency kiosk owned or operated by the virtual currency kiosk operator.

“(2) FORM AND MANNER OF REGISTRATION.—Each submission by a virtual currency kiosk operator pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) the legal name of the virtual currency kiosk operator;

“(B) any fictitious or trade name of the virtual currency kiosk operator;

“(C) the physical address of each virtual currency kiosk owned, operated, or managed by the virtual currency kiosk operator that is located in the United States or the territories of the United States;

“(D) the start date of operation of each virtual currency kiosk;

“(E) the end date of operation of each virtual currency kiosk, if applicable; and

“(F) each virtual currency address used by the virtual currency kiosk operator.

“(3) FALSE AND INCOMPLETE INFORMATION.—The filing of false or materially incomplete information in a submission required under paragraph (1) shall be deemed a failure to comply with the requirements of this subsection.”.

(b) PREVENTING FRAUDULENT TRANSACTIONS AT VIRTUAL CURRENCY KIOSKS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of Chapter 53 of Title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 5337. Virtual currency kiosk fraud prevention

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) BLOCKCHAIN ANALYTICS.—The term ‘blockchain analytics’ means the analysis of data from blockchains or public distributed ledgers, and associated transaction information, to provide risk-specific information about virtual currency transactions and virtual currency addresses.

“(2) CUSTOMER.—The term ‘customer’ means any person that purchases or sells virtual currency through a virtual currency kiosk.

“(3) EXISTING CUSTOMER.—The term ‘existing customer’ means a customer other than a new customer.

“(4) FINCEN.—The term ‘FinCEN’ means the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network of the Department of the Treasury.

“(5) NEW CUSTOMER.—The term ‘new customer’, with respect to a virtual currency kiosk operator, means a customer during the 14-day period beginning on the date of the first virtual currency kiosk transaction of the customer with the virtual currency kiosk operator.

“(6) TRANSACTION HASH.—The term ‘transaction hash’ means a unique identifier made up of a string of characters that act as a record of and provide proof that a transaction was verified and added to the blockchain.

“(7) VIRTUAL CURRENCY.—The term ‘virtual currency’ means any digital representation of value that is recorded on a cryptographically secured distributed ledger or any similar technology or another implementation, which was designed and built as part of a system to leverage or replace blockchain, distributed ledger technology, or their derivatives.

“(8) VIRTUAL CURRENCY ADDRESS.—The term ‘virtual currency address’ means an alphanumeric identifier associated with a virtual currency wallet identifying the location to which virtual currency purchased through a virtual currency kiosk can be sent or from which virtual currency sold through a virtual currency kiosk can be accessed.

“(9) VIRTUAL CURRENCY KIOSK.—The term ‘virtual currency kiosk’ means a stand-alone machine—

“(A) that is capable of accepting or dispensing legal tender in exchange for virtual currency; or

“(B) through which a person acting on the behalf of, or a mechanical agent of, the virtual currency kiosk operator of the machine may enable the virtual currency kiosk operator to facilitate the exchange of legal tender for virtual currency, including by—

“(i) connecting directly to a separate virtual currency exchange that performs a virtual currency kiosk transaction; or

“(ii) drawing upon the virtual currency in the possession of the virtual currency kiosk operator.

“(10) VIRTUAL CURRENCY KIOSK OPERATOR.—The term ‘virtual currency kiosk operator’ means a person who owns, operates, or manages a virtual currency kiosk located in the United States or its territories.

“(11) VIRTUAL CURRENCY KIOSK TRANSACTION.—The term ‘virtual currency kiosk transaction’ means the purchase or sale of virtual currency via a virtual currency kiosk.

“(12) VIRTUAL CURRENCY WALLET.—The term ‘virtual currency wallet’ means a software application or other mechanism providing a means for holding, storing, and transferring virtual currency.

“(b) DISCLOSURES.—Before entering into a virtual currency transaction with a customer, a virtual currency kiosk operator shall disclose in a clear, conspicuous, and easily readable manner—

“(1) all relevant terms and conditions of the virtual currency kiosk transaction, including—

“(A) the amount of the virtual currency kiosk transaction;

“(B) the type and nature of the virtual currency kiosk transaction;

“(C) a warning that the virtual currency kiosk transaction is final, is not refundable, and may not be reversed;

“(D) the type and amount of any fees or other expenses paid by the customer; and

“(E) the exchange rates of—

“(i) the virtual currency to United States dollars, with respect to the virtual currency kiosk transaction; and

“(ii) the virtual currency to United States dollars on the global marketplace;

“(2) a warning relating to consumer fraud including—

“(A) a warning that consumer fraud often starts with contact from a stranger, and that the customer should never send money to someone they do not know;

“(B) a warning about the most common types of fraudulent schemes involving virtual currency kiosks, such as—

“(i) impersonation of a government official or a bank representative;

“(ii) threats of jail time or financial penalties;

“(iii) offers of a job or reward in exchange for payment, or offers of deals that seem too good to be true;

“(iv) claims of a frozen bank account or credit card; or

“(v) requests for donations to charity or disaster relief; and

“(C) a statement that the customer should contact the virtual currency kiosk operator’s customer service helpline or State or local law enforcement if they suspect fraudulent activity; and

“(3) a disclosure relating to the material risks associated with virtual currency and virtual currency transactions, including disclosures to the effect of—

“(A) virtual currency is not issued or backed by the United States Government and is not legal tender;

“(B) a virtual currency is not subject to protections by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Credit Union Administration, or Securities Investor Protection Corporation;

“(C) virtual currency transactions involve risk as the value of virtual currencies is derived from supply and demand in the global marketplace and virtual currencies may lose value; and

“(D) a person or business that accepts virtual currency as payment today may not accept virtual currency as payment in the future.

“(c) ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DISCLOSURES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each time a customer uses a virtual currency kiosk, the virtual currency kiosk operator shall ensure acknowledgment of all disclosures required under subsection (b) via confirmation of consent of the customer at the virtual currency kiosk.

“(2) REFUND ELIGIBILITY.—Many disclosures under this section are intended to serve as warnings to customers who may be conducting a virtual currency kiosk transaction as a result of a scam. The acknowledgment of the disclosures required under this section shall not affect eligibility or prevent a fraud victim from being eligible for a refund.

“(d) RECEIPTS.—Upon completion of each virtual currency kiosk transaction, the virtual currency kiosk operator shall provide the customer with a receipt, which shall include the following information:

“(1) The name and contact information of the virtual currency kiosk operator, including a telephone number for a customer service helpline.

“(2) The name of the customer.

“(3) The type, value, date, and precise time of the virtual currency kiosk transaction, transaction hash, and each applicable virtual currency address.

“(4) The amount of the virtual currency kiosk transaction expressed in United States dollars.

“(5) All fees charged.

“(6) A statement that the customer may be entitled by law to a refund if the customer reports fraudulent activity in conjunction with the virtual currency kiosk transaction not later than 30 days after the date of the virtual currency kiosk transaction.

“(7) The refund policy of the virtual currency kiosk operator or a Uniform Resource Locator where the refund policy of the virtual currency kiosk operator can be found.

“(8) A statement that the customer should contact law enforcement if they suspect fraudulent activity, such as scams, including contact information for a relevant law enforcement or government agency.

“(9) Any additional information the virtual currency kiosk operator determines appropriate.

“(e) PHYSICAL RECEIPTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after the effective date of this section, each receipt required under subsection (d) shall be issued to the customer as a physical receipt at the virtual currency kiosk at the time of the virtual currency kiosk transaction, but such receipt may also be provided in additional forms or communications.

“(f) ANTI-FRAUD POLICY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each virtual currency kiosk operator shall take reasonable steps to detect and prevent fraud, including establishing and maintaining a written anti-fraud policy that includes—

“(A) the identification and assessment of fraud-related risk areas;

“(B) procedures and controls to protect against risks identified under subparagraph (A);

“(C) allocation of responsibility for monitoring the risks identified under subparagraph (A); and

“(D) procedures for the periodic evaluation and revision of the anti-fraud procedures, controls, and monitoring mechanisms under subparagraphs (B) and (C).

“(2) SUBMISSION OF ANTI-FRAUD POLICY TO FINCEN.—Each virtual currency kiosk operator shall submit to FinCEN the anti-fraud policy required under paragraph (1) not later than 90 days after the later of—

“(A) the effective date of this section; or

“(B) the date on which the virtual currency kiosk operator begins operating.

“(g) APPOINTMENT OF COMPLIANCE OFFICER.—Each virtual currency kiosk operator shall designate and employ a compliance officer who—

“(1) is qualified to coordinate and monitor compliance with this section and all other applicable Federal and State laws, rules, and regulations;

“(2) is employed full-time by the virtual currency kiosk operator;

“(3) is not the chief executive officer of the virtual currency kiosk operator; and

“(4) does not own or control more than 20 percent of any interest in the virtual currency kiosk operator.

“(h) USE OF BLOCKCHAIN ANALYTICS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each virtual currency kiosk operator shall use blockchain analytics to prevent sending virtual currency to a virtual currency wallet known to be affiliated with fraudulent activity at the time of a virtual currency kiosk transaction and to detect transaction patterns indicative of fraud or other illicit activities.

“(2) COMPLIANCE.—The Director of FinCEN may request evidence from any virtual cur-

rency kiosk operator to confirm compliance with this subsection.

“(i) VERBAL CONFIRMATION REQUIRED BEFORE NEW CUSTOMER TRANSACTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Before entering into a virtual currency kiosk transaction valued at 300 dollars or more with a new customer, a virtual currency kiosk operator shall obtain verbal confirmation from the new customer that—

“(A) the new customer wishes to proceed with the virtual currency kiosk transaction;

“(B) the new customer understands the nature of the virtual currency kiosk transaction; and

“(C) the new customer is not being fraudulently induced to engage in the transaction.

“(2) REASONABLE EFFORT.—A virtual currency kiosk operator shall make a reasonable effort to determine whether the customer is being fraudulently induced to engage in the virtual currency kiosk transaction.

“(3) METHOD OF CONFIRMATION.—Each verbal confirmation required under paragraph (1) shall be given by way of a live telephone or video call to a person employed by, or on behalf of, the virtual currency kiosk operator.

“(j) REFUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) NEW CUSTOMERS.—Not later than 30 days after receiving an application under paragraph (2), a virtual currency kiosk operator shall issue a refund to a customer for the full amount of each virtual currency kiosk transaction, including the dollar value of virtual currency exchanged and all transaction fees, made during the period in which the customer was a new customer and for which the customer was fraudulently induced to engage in the virtual currency kiosk transaction.

“(B) EXISTING CUSTOMERS.—Not later than 30 days after receiving an application under paragraph (2), a virtual currency kiosk operator shall issue a refund to a customer for the full amount of all transaction fees associated with each virtual currency kiosk transaction made during the period in which the customer was an existing customer and for which the customer was fraudulently induced to engage in the virtual currency kiosk transaction.

“(2) APPLICATION.—A customer seeking a refund under paragraph (1) shall, not later than 90 days after the date of the virtual currency kiosk transaction, submit an application to the virtual currency kiosk operator that includes the following:

“(A) The name, address, and phone number of the customer.

“(B) The transaction hash of the virtual currency kiosk transaction or information sufficient to determine the type, value, date, and time of the virtual currency kiosk transaction.

“(C) A copy of a report to a State or local law enforcement or government agency, made not later than 90 days after the virtual currency kiosk transaction, that includes a sworn affidavit attesting that the customer was fraudulently induced to engage in the virtual currency kiosk transaction.

“(3) ENHANCED DAMAGES.—Any person who knowingly denies a refund to a customer who is entitled to a refund pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be liable to the customer for 3 times the amount of the refund owed under that paragraph or \$10,000, whichever is greater. A penalty under this paragraph shall be in addition to any penalty under subsection (o).

“(k) TRANSACTION LIMITS.—

“(1) IN A 24-HOUR PERIOD.—During any 24-hour period, a virtual currency kiosk operator shall not accept more than—

“(A) \$1,000, or the equivalent amount in virtual currency, from any new customer; or

“(B) \$2,000, or the equivalent amount in virtual currency, from any existing customer.

“(2) TOTAL.—A virtual currency kiosk operator shall not accept a total of more than \$5,000, or the equivalent amount in virtual currency, from any new customer.

“(l) TRANSACTION FREEZES WITH RESPECT TO NEW CUSTOMERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each virtual currency kiosk operator shall place a 48-hour transaction freeze for new customer for each transaction made during 14-day period during which a customer is a new customer.

“(2) LIFTING OF THE TRANSACTION FREEZE.—A virtual currency kiosk operator may automatically lift a transaction freeze under paragraph (1) after the 48-hours freeze period unless the customer contacts the virtual currency kiosk operator before the end of the 48-hour freeze period to report fraudulent activity.

“(m) CUSTOMER SERVICE HELPLINE.—Each virtual currency kiosk operator shall provide live customer service during all hours that the virtual currency kiosk operator accepts virtual currency kiosk transactions, the phone number for which is regularly monitored and displayed in a clear, conspicuous, and easily readable manner upon each virtual currency kiosk.

“(n) COMMUNICATIONS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each virtual currency kiosk operator shall provide a dedicated and frequently monitored phone number and email address for relevant law enforcement and government agencies to facilitate communication with the virtual currency kiosk operator in the event of reported or suspected fraudulent activity.

“(2) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 90 days after the effective date of this section, each virtual currency kiosk operator shall submit the phone number and email address described in paragraph (1) to FinCEN and all other relevant law enforcement and government agencies.

“(o) CIVIL PENALTIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any person who fails to comply with any requirement of this section, or any regulation prescribed under this section, shall be liable to the United States for a civil monetary penalty of \$10,000 for each such violation.

“(2) CONTINUING VIOLATION.—Each day that a violation described in paragraph (1) continues shall constitute a separate violation for purposes of such paragraph.

“(3) ASSESSMENTS.—Any penalty imposed under this section shall be assessed and collected by the Secretary of the Treasury as provided in section 5321 and any such assessment shall be subject to the provisions of that section.

“(p) RELATIONSHIP TO STATE LAWS.—The provisions of this section shall preempt any State law, rule, or regulation only to the extent that such State law, rule, or regulation conflicts with a provision of this section. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a State from enacting a law, rule, or regulation that provides greater protection to customers than the protection provided by the provisions of this section.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 53 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 5336 the following:

“5337. Virtual currency kiosk fraud prevention.”

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 4349. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PROHIBITION ON BAILOUTS OF DIGITAL ASSET MARKET PARTICIPANTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DECENTRALIZED FINANCE TRADING PROTOCOL.—The term “decentralized finance trading protocol” means a blockchain system through which multiple participants can execute a financial transaction—

(A) in accordance with an automated rule or algorithm that is predetermined and non-discretionary; and

(B) without reliance on any other person to maintain control of the digital assets of the user during any part of the financial transaction.

(2) DIGITAL ASSET INTERMEDIARY.—The term “digital asset intermediary” means any person that provides services that are financial in nature, as defined in section 4(k)(4) of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. 1843(k)(4)), with respect to any digital asset.

(3) FINANCIAL SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term “financial service provider” means a financial service provider that is regulated by a Federal banking agency, as defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813).

(4) GENIUS ACT TERMS.—The terms “digital asset”, “digital asset service provider”, and “distributed ledger protocol” have the meanings given those terms, respectively, in section 2 of the GENIUS Act (12 U.S.C. 5901).

(b) PROHIBITION ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—A Federal agency may not provide financial assistance to a digital asset intermediary, digital asset service provider, distributed ledger protocol, decentralized finance trading protocol, or financial service provider with respect to digital asset activities, to prevent the failure or bankruptcy of the digital asset commodity intermediary.

(c) EMERGENCY LIQUIDITY FACILITIES.—A digital asset intermediary, digital asset service provider, distributed ledger protocol, decentralized finance trading protocol, or financial service provider with respect to digital asset activities may not have access to any emergency liquidity facility established under section 13(3) of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 343).

(d) EXCHANGE STABILIZATION FUND.—The Secretary of the Treasury may not use any amounts in the Exchange Stabilization Fund established under section 5302 of title 31, United States Code, for the benefit of any digital asset intermediary, digital asset service provider, distributed ledger protocol, decentralized finance trading protocol or financial service provider with respect to digital asset activities.

SA 4350. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . AMENDMENTS TO THE LEAD-BASED PAINT POISONING PREVENTION ACT.

Section 302(a) of the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. 4822(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting after “mortgage insurance” the following: “, tenant-based rental assistance under section

8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)),”;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 6.—

“(A) RISK ASSESSMENT.—

“(i) DEFINITION.—In this subparagraph, the term ‘covered housing’ means target housing, as defined in section 1004 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 4851b), that—

“(I) is covered by an application for mortgage insurance or housing assistance payments under a program administered by the Secretary; or

“(II) otherwise receives more than \$5,000 in project-based assistance under a Federal housing program.

“(ii) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this clause, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations that—

“(I) require the owner of covered housing in which a family with a child of less than 6 years of age will reside or is expected to reside to conduct an initial risk assessment for lead-based paint hazards—

“(aa) in the case of covered housing receiving tenant-based rental assistance under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)), not later than 15 days after the date on which the family and the owner submit a request for approval of a tenancy or lease renewal, whichever occurs first;

“(bb) in the case of covered housing receiving public housing assistance under the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.) or project-based rental assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), not later than 15 days after the date on which a physical condition inspection occurs; and

“(cc) in the case of covered housing not described in item (aa) or (bb), not later than a date established by the Secretary;

“(II) provide that a visual assessment alone is not sufficient for purposes of complying with subclause (I);

“(III) require that, if lead-based paint hazards are identified by an initial risk assessment conducted under subclause (I), the owner of the covered housing shall—

“(aa) not later than 30 days after the date on which the initial risk assessment is conducted, control the lead-based paint hazards, including achieving clearance in accordance with regulations promulgated under section 402 or 404 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2682, 2684), as applicable; and

“(bb) in accessible and alternative formats consistent with the requirements under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), and title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.), provide notice to all residents in the covered housing affected by the initial risk assessment, and provide notice in the common areas of the covered housing, that lead-based paint hazards were identified and will be controlled within the 30-day period described in item (aa); and

“(IV) provide that there shall be no extension of the 30-day period described in subclause (III)(aa).

“(iii) EXCEPTIONS.—The regulations promulgated under clause (ii) shall provide an exception to the requirement under subclause (I) of such clause for covered housing—

“(I) if the owner of the covered housing submits to the Secretary documentation—

“(aa) that the owner conducted a risk assessment of the covered housing for lead-

based paint hazards during the 12-month period preceding the date on which the family is expected to reside in the covered housing; and

“(bb) of any clearance examinations of lead-based paint hazard control work resulting from the risk assessment described in item (aa) that show that the housing passed the clearance examination;

“(II)(aa) if a lead-based paint inspection of the covered housing determined that lead-based paint was not present in the covered housing; or

“(bb) from which all lead-based paint has been identified and removed and clearance has been achieved in accordance with regulations promulgated under section 402 or 404 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2682, 2684) or under this section, as applicable;

“(III) if—

“(aa) lead-based paint hazards are identified in the dwelling unit in the covered housing in which the family will reside or is expected to reside;

“(bb) the dwelling unit is unoccupied;

“(cc) the owner of the covered housing, without any further delay in occupancy or increase in rent, provides the family with another dwelling unit in the covered housing that has no lead-based paint hazards; and

“(dd) the common areas servicing the new dwelling unit have no lead-based paint hazards; and

“(IV) in accordance with any other standard or exception the Secretary deems appropriate based on health-based standards.

“(B) RELOCATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subparagraph, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations to provide that a family with a child of less than 6 years of age that occupies a dwelling unit in covered housing in which lead-based paint hazards were identified, but not controlled in accordance with regulations required under subparagraph (A)(ii), may relocate on an emergency basis and without placement on any waitlist, penalty (including rent payments to be made for that dwelling unit), or lapse in assistance to a dwelling unit that—

“(I) was constructed in 1978 or later; or

“(II) is in covered housing that has no lead-based paint hazards.

“(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—Relocation described in clause (i) shall be performed consistent with the standards set forth under the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 4601 et seq.) and any other applicable Federal civil rights, fair housing, and non-discrimination laws.”.

SA 4351. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . COMPETITION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SINGLE- AND MULTI-FAMILY HOMES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”), in consultation with the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency, shall—

(1) conduct a grant competition to provide grants to academic organizations, nonprofit organizations, and for-profit or nonprofit mission-driven developers to develop, or rehabilitate existing, single- and multi-family homes—

(A) for households with an income that is not more than 50 percent of the area median income; and

(B) with a focus on—

(i) reducing development costs;

(ii) increasing resiliency, energy efficiency, accessibility for individuals with disabilities; and

(iii) selecting projects that are built to scale; and

(2) study the short- and long-term savings of the resiliency and energy efficiency measures that were implemented in the homes described in paragraph (1).

(b) **USE OF FUNDS.**—A grant awarded under this section shall be awarded at completion of the contract for building a pre-determined number of homes that abide by pre-determined resiliency and energy efficiency measures.

(c) **PRIORITY.**—The Secretary shall prioritize grant awards that—

(1) develop or rehabilitate homes in areas with a severe affordable housing shortage;

(2) focus on quality, durability and maintenance costs and neighborhood design compatibility; or

(3) develop or rehabilitate homes with universal design that provides access for individuals with disabilities.

(d) **REPORT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the competition and study conducted under this section, which shall include—

(1) a description of the projects funded and completed;

(2) the number and sales or rental price, as applicable, of affordable houses built; and

(3) the results of the study described in subsection (a)(2).

SA 4352. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PROHIBIT SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUNDS FROM INVESTING IN CRYPTOCURRENCY.

Section 201 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d), by inserting after the second sentence the following: “Such investment may not be made in any digital asset or any crypto-related investment.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(o) For purposes of subsection (d)—

“(1) the term ‘digital asset’ has the same meaning given such term in section 2 of the GENIUS Act (12 U.S.C. 5901); and

“(2) the term ‘crypto-related investment’ means—

“(A) any investment fund under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-1 et seq.) related to futures on digital assets (as so defined) or on digital asset indices;

“(B) any stock or bond of a public company that—

“(i) substantially derives its value from holdings of digital assets; or

“(ii) primarily derives revenue from providing products or services (including issuance, trading, management, distribution, custody, settlement, or similar services) related to digital assets; or

“(C) any other asset or investment whose value is tied to, or derived from, digital assets.”.

SA 4353. Mrs. BRITT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4553, making appro-

priations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SEC. 101. The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026 (division A of Public Law 119-37) is further amended by striking the date specified in section 106 (3) and inserting “March 27, 2026”.

SEC. 102. For the purposes of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026 (division A of Public Law 119-37), the time covered by such Act shall be considered to include the period which began on or about February 14, 2026, during which there occurred a lapse in appropriations.

SA 4354. Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CRAPO, and Ms. SMITH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE ____—ACCESS TO FAIR FINANCING FOR OPPORTUNITY AND RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT

SEC. ____ 01. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Access to Fair Financing for Opportunity and Resilient Development Act”.

SEC. ____ 02. REQUIREMENT TO TESTIFY.

Section 104(b) of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4703(b)) is amended by adding to the end the following:

“(5) **ANNUAL TESTIMONY.**—The Secretary of the Treasury (or a designee of the Secretary) shall, at the discretion of the chairman of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and chairman of the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, annually testify before such committees (or a subcommittee of such committees) regarding the operations of the Fund during the previous fiscal year.”.

SEC. ____ 03. CDFI BOND GUARANTEE PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the authority to guarantee bonds under section 114A of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4713a) (commonly referred to as the “CDFI Bond Guarantee Program”) provides community development financial institutions with a sustainable source of long-term capital and furthers the mission of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (established under section 104(a) of such Act (12 U.S.C. 4703(a)) to increase economic opportunity and promote community development investments for underserved populations and distressed communities in the United States.

(b) **GUARANTEES FOR BONDS AND NOTES ISSUED FOR COMMUNITY OR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 114A of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4713a) is amended—

(A) in subsection (c)(2)—

(i) by inserting “outstanding” before “principal amount”; and

(ii) by striking “multiplied by an amount equal to the outstanding principal balance of issued notes or bonds.”;

(B) by amending subsection (e)(2) to read as follows:

“(2) **LIMITATION ON GUARANTEE AMOUNT.**—The Secretary may not guarantee any amount under the program equal to less than \$25,000,000, but the total of all such guarantees in any fiscal year may not exceed \$1,000,000,000.”; and

(C) in subsection (k), by striking “September 30, 2014” and inserting “the date that is the later of 4 years after the date of enactment of the Access to Fair Financing for Opportunity and Resilient Development Act or December 31, 2030.”.

(2) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-325; 108 Stat. 2160) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 114 the following:

“Sec. 114A. Guarantees for bonds and notes issued for community or economic development purposes.”.

(c) **REPORT ON THE CDFI BOND GUARANTEE PROGRAM.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall issue a report to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives on the effectiveness of the CDFI bond guarantee program established under section 114A of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4713a).

SEC. ____ 04. CAPITALIZATION ASSISTANCE TO ENHANCE LIQUIDITY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 113 of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4712) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) **ASSISTANCE.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Fund may provide funds to organizations for the purpose of—

“(A) purchasing loans that are originated by community development financial institutions, loan participations, or interests therein from community development financial institutions;

“(B) providing guarantees, loan loss reserves, or other forms of credit enhancement to promote liquidity for community development financial institutions; and

“(C) otherwise enhancing the liquidity of community development financial institutions.

“(2) **CONSTRUCTION OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS.**—For purposes of this subsection, notwithstanding section 105(a)(9) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(9)), funds provided pursuant to such Act shall be considered to be Federal Government funds.”;

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) **SELECTION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The selection of organizations to receive assistance and the amount of assistance to be provided to any organization under this section shall be at the discretion of the Fund and in accordance with criteria established by the Fund.

“(2) **ELIGIBILITY.**—Organizations eligible to receive assistance under this section—

“(A) shall have a primary purpose of promoting community development; and

“(B) are not required to be community development financial institutions.

“(3) **PRIORITIZATION.**—For the purpose of making an award of funds under this section, the Fund shall prioritize the selection of organizations that—

“(A) demonstrate relevant experience or an ability to carry out the activities under this section, including experience leading or participating in loan purchase structures or

purchasing or participating in the purchase of, assigning, or otherwise transferring, assets from community development financial institutions;

“(B) demonstrate the capacity to increase the number or dollar volume of loan originations or expand the products or services of community development financial institutions, including by leveraging the award with private capital; and

“(C) will use the funds to support community development financial institutions that represent broad geographic coverage or that serve borrowers that have experienced significant unmet capital or financial services needs.”;

(3) in subsection (c), in the first sentence—
 (A) by striking “\$5,000,000” and inserting “\$20,000,000”; and

(B) by striking “during any 3-year period”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(g) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may promulgate such regulations as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the authorities or purposes of this section.”.

(b) EMERGENCY CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUNDS.—Section 104A of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4703a) is amended by striking subsection (l) and inserting the following:

“(l) DEPOSIT OF FUNDS.—All funds received by the Secretary in connection with purchases made pursuant to this section, including interest payments, dividend payments, and proceeds from the sale of any financial instrument, shall be deposited into the Fund and used—

“(1) to provide financial assistance to organizations pursuant to section 113; and

“(2) to provide financial and technical assistance pursuant to section 108, except that subsection (e) of that section shall be waived.”.

(c) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the terms “community development financial institution” and “Fund” have the meanings given the terms in section 103 of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4702).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which assistance is first provided under section 113 of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4712) pursuant to the amendments made by subsection (a) of this section, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to Congress a written report describing the use of the Fund for the 1-year period preceding the submission of the report for the purposes described in subsection (a)(1) of such section 113, as amended by subsection (a) of this section, which shall include, with respect to the period covered by the report—

(A) the total amount of—

(i) loans, loan participations, and interests therein purchased from community development financial institutions;

(ii) loans that support affordable housing construction; and

(iii) guarantees, loan loss reserves, and other forms of credit enhancement provided to community development financial institutions;

(B) the effect of the purchases and guarantees made by the Fund on the overall competitiveness of community development financial institutions; and

(C) the impact of the purchases and guarantees made by the Fund on the liquidity of community development financial institutions.

SEC. ____ 05. NATIVE CDFI RELENDING PROGRAM.

Section 502 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) SET ASIDE FOR NATIVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘Alaska Native’ has the meaning given the term ‘Native’ in section 3(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602(b));

“(B) the term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(i) the Committee on Agriculture of the Senate;

“(ii) the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate;

“(iii) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

“(iv) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives;

“(v) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

“(vi) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives;

“(C) the term ‘community development financial institution’ has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4702);

“(D) the term ‘Indian Tribe’ has the meaning given the term ‘Indian tribe’ in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103);

“(E) the term ‘Native community development financial institution’ means an entity—

“(i) that has been certified as a community development financial institution by the Secretary of the Treasury;

“(ii) that is not less than 51 percent owned or controlled by members of Indian Tribes, Alaska Native communities, or Native Hawaiian communities; and

“(iii) for which not less than 51 percent of the activities of the entity serve Indian Tribes, Alaska Native communities, or Native Hawaiian communities;

“(F) the term ‘Native Hawaiian’ has the meaning given the term in section 801 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4221); and

“(G) the term ‘priority Tribal land’ means—

“(i) any land located within the boundaries of—

“(I) an Indian reservation, pueblo, or rancheria; or

“(II) a former reservation within Oklahoma;

“(ii) any land not located within the boundaries of an Indian reservation, pueblo, or rancheria, the title to which is held—

“(I) in trust by the United States for the benefit of an Indian Tribe or an individual Indian;

“(II) by an Indian Tribe or an individual Indian, subject to restriction against alienation under laws of the United States; or

“(III) by a dependent Indian community;

“(iii) any land located within a region established pursuant to section 7(a) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1606(a));

“(iv) Hawaiian Home Lands, as defined in section 801 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4221); or

“(v) those areas or communities designated by the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior that are near, adjacent, or contiguous to reservations where financial assistance and social service programs are provided to Indians because of their status as Indians.

“(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection is to—

“(A) increase homeownership opportunities for Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Communities, and Native Hawaiian communities in rural areas; and

“(B) provide capital to Native community development financial institutions to increase the number of mortgage transactions carried out by those institutions.

“(3) SET ASIDE FOR NATIVE CDFIS.—Of amounts appropriated to make direct loans under this section for each fiscal year, the Secretary may use not more than \$50,000,000 to make direct loans to Native community development financial institutions in accordance with this subsection.

“(4) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—A Native community development financial institution desiring a loan under this subsection shall demonstrate that the institution—

“(A) can provide the non-Federal cost share required under paragraph (6); and

“(B) is able to originate and service loans for single family homes.

“(5) LENDING REQUIREMENTS.—A Native community development financial institution that receives a loan pursuant to this subsection shall—

“(A) use those amounts to make loans to borrowers—

“(i) who otherwise meet the requirements for a loan under this section; and

“(ii) who—

“(I) are members of an Indian Tribe, an Alaska Native community, or a Native Hawaiian community; or

“(II) maintain a household in which not less than 1 member is a member of an Indian Tribe, an Alaska Native community, or a Native Hawaiian community; and

“(B) in making loans under subparagraph (A), give priority to borrowers described in that subparagraph who are residing on priority Tribal land.

“(6) NON-FEDERAL COST SHARE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A Native community development financial institution that receives a loan under this section shall be required to match not less than 20 percent of the amount received.

“(B) WAIVER.—In the case of a loan for which amounts are used to make loans to borrowers described in paragraph (5)(B), the Secretary shall waive the non-Federal cost share requirement described in subparagraph (A) with respect to those loan amounts.

“(7) REPORTING.—

“(A) ANNUAL REPORT BY NATIVE CDFIS.—Each Native community development financial institution that receives a loan pursuant to this subsection shall submit an annual report to the Secretary on the lending activities of the institution using the loan amounts, which shall include—

“(i) a description of the outreach efforts of the institution in local communities to identify eligible borrowers;

“(ii) a description of how the institution leveraged additional capital to reach prospective borrowers;

“(iii) the number of loan applications received, approved, and deployed;

“(iv) the average loan amount;

“(v) the number of finalized loans that were made on Tribal trust lands and not on Tribal trust lands; and

“(vi) the number of finalized loans that were made on priority Tribal land and not priority Tribal land.

“(B) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional communities a report that includes—

“(i) a list of loans made to Native community development financial institutions pursuant to this subsection, including the name of the institution and the loan amount;

“(ii) the percentage of loans made under this section to members of Indian Tribes, Alaska Native communities, and Native Hawaiian communities, respectively, including a breakdown of loans made to households residing on and not on Tribal trust lands; and

“(iii) the average loan amount made by Native community development financial institutions pursuant to this subsection.

“(C) EVALUATION OF PROGRAM.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary and the Secretary of the Treasury shall conduct an evaluation of and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the program under this subsection, which shall—

“(i) evaluate the effectiveness of the program, including an evaluation of the demand for loans under the program; and

“(ii) include recommendations relating to the program, including whether—

“(I) the program should be expanded to such that all community development financial institutions may make loans under the program to the borrowers described in paragraph (5); and

“(II) the set aside amount paragraph (3) should be modified in order to match demand under the program.

“(B) GRANTS FOR OPERATIONAL SUPPORT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make grants to Native community development financial institutions that receive a loan under this section to provide operational support and other related services to those institutions, subject to—

“(i) the satisfactory performance, as determined by the Secretary, of a Native community development financial institution in carrying out this section; and

“(ii) the availability of funding.

“(B) AMOUNT.—A Native community development financial institution that receives a loan under this section shall be eligible to receive a grant described in subparagraph (A) in an amount equal to 20 percent of the direct loan amount received by the Native community development financial institution under the program under this section as of the date on which the direct loan is awarded.

“(9) OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025, 2026, and 2027—

“(A) to provide technical assistance to Native community development financial institutions—

“(i) relating to homeownership and other housing-related assistance provided by the Secretary; and

“(ii) to assist those institutions to perform outreach to eligible homebuyers relating to the loan program under this section; or

“(B) to provide funding to a national organization representing Native American housing interests to perform outreach and provide technical assistance as described in clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, of subparagraph (A).

“(10) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—In addition to other available funds, the Secretary may use not more than 3 percent of the amounts made available to carry out this subsection for administration of the programs established under this subsection.”.

SA 4355. Mr. RICKETTS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 2. APPLICABILITY OF NEPA TO THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN ASSISTANCE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR MODIFICATION OF RESIDENTIAL HOUSING ON INFILL SITES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) GREENFIELD.—The term “greenfield” means a site that has not been developed, including a woodland, farmland, and an open field.

(2) INFILL SITE.—The term “infill site”—

(A) means a site that is served by existing infrastructure, including water lines, sewer lines, and roads; and

(B) does not include—

(i) a site that is served by existing infrastructure that only consists of a road;

(ii) a site within a census tract designated as very high or relatively high risk for wildfire, coastal flooding, and riverine flooding under the National Risk Index of the Federal Emergency Management Agency pursuant to section 206 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5136); and

(iii) a greenfield.

(b) EXEMPTION.—Providing assistance under section 501, 502, 504, 515, 533, or 538 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471, 1472, 1474, 1485, 1490m, or 1490p–2) for the construction or modification of residential housing located on an infill site may not be considered a major Federal action under section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to Congress a report that—

(1) determines whether the implementation of this section—

(A) reduced the amount of time it takes to review an application for assistance described in subsection (b); and

(B) reduced the administrative cost of providing such assistance;

(2) describes how the implementation of this section affects the affordable housing sector in rural America; and

(3) includes any recommendations from the Secretary of Agriculture for future congressional action regarding revisions to categorical exclusions or exemptions from the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) related to the provision of assistance described in subsection (b).

(d) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—This section does not affect any requirement under any law other than the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

SA 4356. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4308 proposed by Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Ms. WARREN) to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 7, line 23 of the amendment, insert “and housing cooperatives” after “condominiums”.

On page 12 of the amendment, strike lines 22 through 24 and insert the following:

(i) an owner-occupant of the cooperative housing unit on which repairs are to be conducted;

(iii) an owner-occupant of the manufactured home on which repairs are to be conducted; or

On page 65, line 10 of the amendment, insert “or cooperative housing” before “regulations”.

On page 199, line 25 of the amendment, insert “or housing cooperative” after “trust”.

On page 228, line 13 of the amendment, insert “, housing cooperative corporations,” before “and public housing agencies”.

SA 4357. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . MORTGAGE INSURANCE REFORMS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Each year, millions of homebuyers must purchase costly mortgage insurance, which can tack on thousands of dollars in costs to the already expensive process of buying a home, which is an aspiration increasingly out of reach for far too many people in the United States.

(2) Government-backed mortgages require the borrower to purchase mortgage insurance in the form of an upfront mortgage insurance premium and an annual mortgage insurance premium that is paid in monthly installments.

(3) Conventional mortgages require private mortgage insurance (in this section referred to as “PMI”) for the approximately 800,000 homeowners each year who make a down payment of less than 20 percent of the home purchase price.

(4) More than 28 percent of all mortgage loans that originated between 1999 and 2022 required mortgage insurance.

(5) PMI costs families an average of \$2,110 per year, or \$176 per month.

(6) For some families, PMI can cost as much as \$6,210 per year, or more than \$500 per month.

(7) For mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration (in this section referred to as the “FHA”), the average mortgage insurance premium is \$1,650 per year, or about \$137 per month.

(8) In 2023, the FHA announced a 30 basis-point reduction to annual mortgage insurance premiums for new mortgages insured by the FHA, saving more than 1,100,000 borrowers an average of \$453 each annually. Total savings for these borrowers over a loan life of roughly 10 years is forecasted to amount to more than \$5,100,000,000.

(b) MAXIMUM CAPITAL RATIO FOR MUTUAL MORTGAGE INSURANCE FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 205(f) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1711(f)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall ensure that the capital ratio of the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund does not exceed 5.75 percent.

“(B) At the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this paragraph, and annually thereafter, the Secretary—

“(i) shall evaluate, based on market conditions and the health of the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund, whether to increase or decrease the maximum percentage under subparagraph (A); and

“(ii) may increase or decrease the maximum percentage under subparagraph (A) if the Secretary determines appropriate.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date that is 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) AUTOMATIC TERMINATION OF PREMIUM PAYMENTS FOR FHA MORTGAGE INSURANCE.—

Section 203(c)(2)(B) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1709(c)(2)(B)) is amended—

(1) by striking “for the following periods:” and all that follows through “(ii) For any mortgage involving an original principal obligation (excluding any premium collected under subparagraph (A)) that is greater than or equal to 90 percent of such value, for the first 30 years of the mortgage term; except that notwithstanding the matter preceding clause (i),” and inserting the following: “for the first 5 years of the mortgage term, except that”;

(2) by striking “such value” and inserting “the appraised value of the property (as of the date the mortgage is accepted for insurance)”;

(3) by striking “under this clause” and inserting “under this subparagraph”.

(d) CANCELLATION OR AUTOMATIC TERMINATION OF PRIVATE MORTGAGE INSURANCE.—Section 2 of the Homeowners Protection Act of 1998 (12 U.S.C. 4901) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking “80 percent” each place that term appears and inserting “85 percent”;

(2) in paragraph (18), by striking “78 percent” each place that term appears and inserting “80 percent”.

SA 4358. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. VOLUNTEER FIRST RESPONDER HOUSING.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) BONA FIDE VOLUNTEER; ELIGIBLE EMPLOYER; QUALIFIED SERVICES.—The terms “bona fide volunteer”, “eligible employer”, and “qualified services” have the meanings given those terms in section 457(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe” has the meaning given the term “Indian tribe” in section 501(b) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471(b)).

(3) QUALIFIED VOLUNTEER FIRST RESPONDER.—The term “qualified volunteer first responder” means any individual who—

(A) is a bona fide volunteer performing qualified services for an eligible employer;

(B) continuously served as a volunteer for the eligible employer during the 2-year period preceding the date on which the individual submits a verification letter under subsection (b)(2) or (c)(2);

(C) during each of the 2 years described in subparagraph (B)—

(i) met the minimum requirements for active membership established by the eligible employer; or

(ii) if the eligible employer did not establish minimum requirements, volunteered for not less than 200 hours; and

(D) is certified as a firefighter or other first responder in the State, political subdivision of a State, or jurisdiction of an Indian Tribe in which the individual is serving as volunteer.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SINGLE FAMILY HOUSING GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A qualified volunteer first responder who submits to the Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this subsection as the “Secretary”) a verification letter in accordance with paragraph (2) shall be eligible for a deduction in annual income under section 3555.152(c) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), in the amount of \$18,000.

(2) VERIFICATION LETTER.—To be eligible for a deduction under paragraph (1), a qualified volunteer first responder shall submit to the Secretary a verification letter from the head of the eligible employer for which the qualified volunteer first responder volunteers, which shall—

(A) include the date on which the qualified volunteer first responder joined the eligible employer as a volunteer;

(B) attest to the Secretary that the qualified volunteer first responder meets the requirements under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subsection (a)(3); and

(C) include a copy of the certification described in subsection (a)(3)(D).

(c) GOOD NEIGHBOR NEXT DOOR SALES PROGRAM AND SIMILAR PROGRAMS.—

(1) ELIGIBILITY.—A qualified volunteer first responder who submits to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (referred to in this subsection as the “Secretary”) a verification letter in accordance with paragraph (2) shall qualify as a firefighter or emergency medical technician for purposes of any single family property disposition program carried out by the Secretary by regulation under section 204(g) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1710(g)) that offers discounted home prices to firefighters or emergency medical technicians.

(2) VERIFICATION LETTER.—To qualify to purchase a home under a single family property disposition program referred to in paragraph (1), a qualified first responder shall submit to the Secretary a verification letter from the head of the eligible employer for which the qualified volunteer first responder volunteers, which shall—

(A) include the date on which the qualified volunteer first responder joined the eligible employer as a volunteer;

(B) attest to the Secretary that the qualified volunteer first responder meets the requirements under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subsection (a)(3);

(C) include a copy of the certification described in subsection (a)(3)(D); and

(D) include a certification from the qualified volunteer first responder of the responder’s good faith intention to continue serving as a volunteer for the eligible employer for not less than 1 year following the date of closing.

SA 4359. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES TO SECTION 502 DIRECT LOAN PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 502(a) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) Before implementing any change to a regulation, handbook, or procedure related to the administration of loans made under this section, the Secretary shall—

“(A) publish the proposed change for comment by the public; and

“(B) inform the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives of the proposed change.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to any change to a regulation, handbook, or procedure made on or after February 10, 2026.

(2) REPEAL OF RECENT CHANGES.—In the case of any change to a regulation, handbook, or procedure related to the administration of loans made under section 502 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472) that the Secretary of Agriculture implemented during the period beginning on February 10, 2026 and ending on the day before the date of enactment of this Act without first taking the actions required under paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of that section, as added by subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary—

(A) shall repeal the change; and

(B) may not reimplement the change unless the Secretary has complied with such paragraph (3).

(c) SUNSET.—Effective on February 10, 2027, section 502(a) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (3) (as added by this section); and

(2) by redesignating paragraph (4) (as so redesignated by this section) as paragraph (3).

SA 4360. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. TREATMENT OF INCOME DERIVED FROM A STATE-SANCTIONED MARIJUANA BUSINESS FOR QUALIFICATION FOR A FEDERALLY BACKED SINGLE-FAMILY MORTGAGE LOAN; PROTECTIONS AGAINST FORECLOSURE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FEDERALLY BACKED MORTGAGE LOAN.—The term “federally backed mortgage loan” means any loan secured by a first or subordinate lien on residential real property, including individual units of condominiums and cooperatives, designed principally for the occupancy of 1 to 4 families that is—

(A) insured by the Federal Housing Administration under title I or title II of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1702 et seq., 1707 et seq.);

(B) insured under section 255 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z–20);

(C) guaranteed under section 184 or 184A of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z–13a, 1715z–13b);

(D) guaranteed, insured, or made by the Department of Veterans Affairs;

(E) guaranteed, insured, or made by the Department of Agriculture; or

(F) purchased or securitized by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation or the Federal National Mortgage Association.

(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe” has the meaning given the term “Indian tribe” in section 102 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5130).

(3) MANUFACTURER.—The term “manufacturer” means a person who manufactures, compounds, converts, processes, prepares, or packages marijuana or marijuana products.

(4) MARIJUANA.—The term “marijuana” has the meaning given the term “marihuana” in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802).

(5) MARIJUANA PRODUCT.—The term “marijuana product” means any article that contains marijuana, including an article that is a concentrate, an edible, a tincture, a marijuana-infused product, or a topical.

(6) **PRODUCER.**—The term “producer” means a person who plants, cultivates, harvests, or in any way facilitates the natural growth of marijuana.

(7) **SERVICE PROVIDER.**—The term “service provider”—

(A) means a business, organization, or other person that—

(i) sells goods or services to a State-sanctioned marijuana business; or

(ii) provides any business services, including the sale or lease of real or any other property, legal or other licensed services, or any other ancillary service, relating to a State-sanctioned marijuana business; and

(B) does not include a business, organization, or other person that participates in any business or organized activity that involves handling marijuana or marijuana products, including cultivating, producing, manufacturing, selling, transporting, displaying, dispensing, distributing, or purchasing marijuana or marijuana products.

(8) **STATE.**—The term “State” means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or possession of the United States.

(9) **STATE-SANCTIONED MARIJUANA BUSINESS.**—The term “State-sanctioned marijuana business” means a manufacturer, producer, or any person that—

(A) engages in any activity described in subparagraph (B) pursuant to a law established by a State, an Indian Tribe, or a political subdivision of a State, as determined by such State, Indian Tribe, or political subdivision; and

(B) participates in any business or organized activity that involves handling marijuana or marijuana products, including cultivating, producing, manufacturing, selling, transporting, displaying, dispensing, distributing, or purchasing marijuana or marijuana products.

(b) **TREATMENT OF INCOME.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Income derived from a State-sanctioned marijuana business that operates within a State, an Indian Tribe, or a political subdivision of a State that allows the cultivation, production, manufacture, sale, transportation, display, dispensing, distribution, or purchase of marijuana pursuant to a law or regulation of the State, Indian Tribe, or political subdivision, as applicable, or a service provider (wherever located), shall be considered in the same manner as any other legal income for purposes of determining eligibility for a federally backed mortgage loan for a 1- to 4-unit property that is the principal residence of the mortgagor.

(2) **LIABILITY.**—The mortgagee or servicer of a federally backed mortgage loan described in paragraph (1), or any Federal agency, the Federal National Mortgage Association, or the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, may not be held liable pursuant to any Federal law or regulation solely for—

(A) providing, insuring, guaranteeing, purchasing, or securitizing a mortgage to an otherwise qualified borrower on the basis of the income described in paragraph (1); or

(B) accepting the income described in paragraph (1) as payment on the federally backed mortgage loan.

(c) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) the Federal Housing Administration shall implement subsection (b)—

(A) by notice or mortgagee letter for loans insured under title I, title II, or section 255 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1702 et seq., 1707 et seq., 1715z–20); and

(B) by lender letter for loans guaranteed under section 184 or 184A of the Housing and

Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z–13a, 1715z–13b);

(2) the Department of Veterans Affairs shall implement subsection (b) by circular or handbook for loans guaranteed, insured, or made by the Department;

(3) the Department of Agriculture shall implement subsection (b) by bulletin for loans guaranteed or made by the Department;

(4) the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation shall implement subsection (b) by updating its Single-Family Seller/Service Guide for loans purchased or securitized by the Corporation; and

(5) the Federal National Mortgage Association shall implement subsection (b) by updating its Single Family Selling Guide for loans purchased or securitized by the Association.

(d) **PROTECTIONS UNDER FEDERAL LAW RELATING TO FORFEITURE.**—

(1) **DEFINITION.**—In this subsection, the term “collateral” does not include marijuana or a marijuana product.

(2) **FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION, FEDERAL HOME LOAN MORTGAGE CORPORATION, AND FEDERAL AGENCIES MAKING, INSURING, OR GUARANTEEING MORTGAGE LOANS OR SECURITIES.**—The Federal National Mortgage Association, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and any Federal agency that has a legal interest in the collateral for a residential mortgage loan, including individual units of condominiums and cooperatives, provided that the collateral is a property designed principally for the occupancy of 1 to 4 families and underwritten, in whole or in part, based on income from a State-sanctioned marijuana business or service provider, shall not be subject to criminal, civil, or administrative forfeiture of that legal interest pursuant to any Federal law for providing, insuring, guaranteeing, purchasing, securitizing, or guaranteeing payments from a security based on such loan.

(3) **OTHER PARTIES TO MORTGAGE LOANS.**—A nondepository lender that makes a federally backed mortgage loan and any person who otherwise has a legal interest in such a loan or in the collateral of the loan, including individual units of condominiums and cooperatives, provided that the collateral is a property designed principally for the occupancy of 1 to 4 families and underwritten, in whole or in part, based on income from a State-sanctioned marijuana business or service provider, shall not be subject to criminal, civil, or administrative forfeiture of that legal interest pursuant to any Federal law for providing, purchasing, securitizing, accepting, and making payments related to such federally backed mortgage loan solely because loan payments or underwriting are based on income that is in whole or in part from a State-sanctioned marijuana business or service provider.

SA 4361. Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. PADILLA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . LIMITATIONS ON REDUCTIONS IN CONTINUUM OF CARE FUNDING.

Subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 422 (42 U.S.C. 11382), by adding at the end the following:

“(k) **LIMITATION ON REDUCTIONS OF GRANT AMOUNTS.**—The total amount of funds awarded under this section to applicants in a State

for a fiscal year shall be not less than 95 percent of the total amount of such funds awarded to applicants in the State for the preceding fiscal year unless applicants in the State do not submit enough eligible projects for the fiscal year to meet that minimum funding amount.

“(1) **LIMITATION ON REDUCTIONS OF EXISTING HOUSING.**—In making annual awards for a fiscal year under this section, the Secretary shall renew each grant that the Secretary awarded for the preceding fiscal year under this section at a funding level that ensures that no existing tenant will lose access to housing funded by that grant, provided that—

“(1) the applicant includes the project funded by the grant in the applicant’s submission to the Secretary; and

“(2) the project complied with the requirements of the notice of funding opportunity for the preceding fiscal year.”; and

(2) in section 429(b)(2) (42 U.S.C. 11386c(b)(2)), by striking “as determined by the Secretary” and inserting “as required by applicable statutes and regulations”.

SA 4362. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . TRANSFER OF ICE APPROPRIATIONS TO HOUSING PROGRAMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Effective on the date of enactment of this Act, of the unobligated balances, and the obligated balances that have not been outlaid, of amounts made available under sections 90003 and 100052 of Public Law 119–21 (139 Stat. 358, 387) (commonly known as the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”)—

(1) 50 percent shall be transferred to the Housing Trust Fund established under section 1338(a) of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4568(a));

(2) 25 percent shall be transferred to the Capital Magnet Fund established under section 1339(a) of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4569(a)); and

(3) 25 percent shall be transferred to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out the HOME Investment Partnerships program under subtitle A of title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12741 et seq.).

(b) **USE AND AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—Amounts transferred under paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (a) shall—

(1) be merged with other amounts in that fund or other amounts made available for that program, as applicable;

(2) be subject to the same conditions and limitations as the other amounts in that fund or other amounts made available for that program, as applicable; and

(3) remain available until expended.

SA 4363. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE —AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HOMEOWNERSHIP PROTECTION

SEC. 1. Short Title.—

This title may be cited as the “Affordable Housing and Homeownership Protection Act of 2026”.

SEC. 2. TAX ON CERTAIN INVESTOR PURCHASES OF SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 36 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

“Subchapter G—Certain Home Purchases

“SEC. 4499. TAX ON CERTAIN INVESTOR PURCHASES OF SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There is hereby imposed on each covered investor a tax equal to the applicable percentage of the purchase price paid by such covered investor with respect to any covered home purchase during the taxable year.

“(b) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes of subsection (a), the applicable percentage is—

“(1) 1 percent in the case of a medium-sized investor,

“(2) 3 percent in the case of a large investor, and

“(3) 5 percent in the case of a giant investor.

“(c) COVERED INVESTOR.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘covered investor’ means any person, other than a person described in paragraph (6), who is a medium-sized investor, large investor, or giant investor.

“(2) MEDIUM-SIZED INVESTOR.—The term ‘medium-sized investor’ means any person who owns more than 15 and not more than 25 single-family homes as of the last day of the taxable year.

“(3) LARGE INVESTOR.—The term ‘large investor’ means any person who owns more than 25 and not more than 100 single-family homes as of the last day of the taxable year.

“(4) GIANT INVESTOR.—The term ‘giant investor’ means any person who owns more than 100 single-family homes as of the last day of the taxable year.

“(5) NEW CONSTRUCTION EXCLUDED.—Any new single-family home which is constructed by the taxpayer shall not be taken into account for purposes of this subsection, unless such single-family home replaces a previous single-family home on the same site which was purchased by the taxpayer and replaced with the newly constructed single-family home.

“(6) EXCEPTIONS.—A person described in this paragraph is—

“(A) any organization which is exempt from taxation under section 501(a), the primary purpose of which is related to affordable housing, housing counseling, or neighborhood stabilization,

“(B) any State or political subdivision thereof,

“(C) any public housing authority or its instrumentalities,

“(D) any land bank, or

“(E) any community land trust.

“(d) TERMS RELATING TO HOME PURCHASE, ETC.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) COVERED HOME PURCHASE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘covered home purchase’ means the purchase of a single-family home by a covered investor.

“(B) NEW CONSTRUCTION.—The construction of a new single-family home by the taxpayer shall not be treated as a purchase, unless such new single-family home is taken into account for purposes of subsection (c) by reason of paragraph (5) thereof.

“(2) PURCHASE PRICE.—The term ‘purchase price’ means the total amount paid, including the amount of any indebtedness incurred or assumed, by the taxpayer to acquire a single-family home from the seller.

“(3) SINGLE-FAMILY HOME.—The term ‘single-family home’ has the meaning given such term by section 81.2 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations.

“(4) OWN.—The term ‘own’ means directly or indirectly possessing a majority interest in a single-family home.

“(e) AGGREGATION RULES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2), all persons treated as a single employer under subsection (a) or (b) of section 52, or subsection (m) or (o) of section 414, shall be treated as 1 person for purposes of this section.

“(2) MODIFICATIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

“(A) section 52(a) shall be applied by substituting ‘component members’ for ‘members’, and

“(B) for purposes of applying section 52(b), the term ‘trade or business’ shall include any activity treated as a trade or business under paragraph (5) or (6) of section 469(c) (determined without regard to the phrase ‘To the extent provided in regulations’ in such paragraph (6)).

“(3) COMPONENT MEMBER.—For purposes of paragraph (2), the term ‘component member’ has the meaning given such term by section 1563(b), determined without regard to paragraph (2) thereof.

“(4) ACQUISITION OF HOMES BY RELATED PARTIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of determining the number of homes owned or purchased by a covered investor, a covered home purchase by a person bearing a relationship to the covered investor specified in section 267(b) or 707(b)(1), from a person who does not bear such a relationship to the covered investor, shall be treated as a covered home purchase by the covered investor.

“(B) MEMBERS OF FAMILY.—For purposes of this paragraph, sections 267(b) and 707(b)(1) shall be applied as if section 267(c)(4) provided that the family of an individual consists of the individual’s spouse, the individual’s children, grandchildren, and parents, and any spouse of the individual’s children or grandchildren.

“(C) EXCEPTION.—This paragraph shall not apply to the purchase or ownership by any individual of a home which is the principal residence (within the meaning of section 121) of the individual.

“(f) REPORTING.—Each person who is a covered investor for the taxable year shall attach to the return of the tax imposed by this section a report containing information, in such form as the Secretary shall prescribe, on—

“(1) the number of single-family homes owned on the last day of the taxable year by such person, and

“(2) the number of single-family homes purchased by such person during the taxable year.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of subchapters for chapter 36 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“SUBCHAPTER G—CERTAIN HOME PURCHASES”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

SEC. 3. REVENUES.

The Secretary of the Treasury shall allocate or otherwise transfer such revenues resulting from the tax imposed by section 4499 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as follows:

(1) 65 percent of such amounts to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to provide additional funding for the Housing Trust Fund established under section 1338(a)

of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4568(a)).

(2) 35 percent of such amounts to provide additional funding for the Capital Magnet Fund established under section 1339(a) of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4569(a)).

SEC. 4. HOUSING TRUST FUND SMALL STATE MINIMUM.

Section 1338(c)(4)(C) of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4568(c)(4)(C)) is amended by striking “\$3,000,000” each place that term appears and inserting “1.1 percent of amounts made available under this subsection in a fiscal year”.

SA 4364. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . PRESERVING HOMES AND COMMUNITIES.

(a) SALE OF FHA NON-PERFORMING SINGLE FAMILY MORTGAGE LOANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1707 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 259. SALE OF NON-PERFORMING SINGLE FAMILY MORTGAGE LOANS.

“(a) SINGLE FAMILY SALES.—The Secretary may conduct sales of 1 or more single family non-performing residential mortgage loans insured under this title only if the following requirements are met:

“(1) The Secretary determines that no other reasonable measures other than a sale are available to restore the Fund to, or keep the Fund above, the minimum capital requirements under section 205(f)(4).

“(2) The Secretary establishes a system that provides priority to Federal, State, local, or Tribal governments or nonprofit organizations that have the capacity and experience required for buying, servicing, and resolving single family mortgage loans in a manner that promotes affordable housing, fair housing, affordable homeownership, housing counseling, or neighborhood stabilization.

“(3) Applicable loss mitigation required under section 230 is exhausted before any loan is placed into the loan sale.

“(4) Clear, written notice is sent by certified and first-class mail by the servicer to the borrower of the loan, all owners of record, and any applicable estate of the borrower with a copy sent to the Secretary, not less than 90 days before the inclusion of the loan in any single family sale—

“(A) stating that the loan will be included in a single family sale of non-performing loans; and

“(B) describing the sale process, including—

“(i) the loss mitigation or other protections available to the borrower and other owners of record both before and after the sale;

“(ii) the status of any loss mitigation actions offered by the mortgagee with respect to the loan, including decisions on all loss mitigation reviews, descriptions of any loss mitigation options offered or denied, and supporting documentation for the most recent evaluation; and

“(iii) the obligations of the servicer of the loan before and after the sale, including loss mitigation requirements.

“(5) Purchasers take loans subject to the following requirements:

“(A) The provision of loss mitigation options to all eligible borrowers that offer terms and protections at least as favorable as those available under loss mitigation guidelines of the Federal Housing Administration, including the absence of fees for loss mitigation and loan modifications that reduce payments to an affordable level.

“(B) The provision of a deferral program that offers terms and protections at least as favorable as those provided by a partial claim available under loss mitigation guidelines of the Federal Housing Administration, including the absence of fees, to borrowers who can afford their pre-hardship mortgage payment.

“(C) Written, public disclosure of post-sale loss mitigation options.

“(D) Failure by the purchaser to follow the established loss mitigation guidelines shall serve as a defense to a judicial foreclosure and a basis to enjoin or otherwise stay a non-judicial foreclosure.

“(E) Data reporting as provided under subsection (d)(1).

“(F) Maintenance of vacant and abandoned property, including the payment of local property taxes, until such time as title is transferred to a nonprofit organization or the property is sold to a bona fide third-party purchaser.

“(G) Where a property becomes vacant, the purchaser shall not release the lien until the property is sold or donated.

“(H) Use of contract for deed, lease to own, or a land installment contract to sell or otherwise transfer any property that is secured by a purchased loan shall be prohibited unless the tenant or purchaser is a nonprofit organization.

“(I) For all non-performing loans where a home retention loss mitigation option is not possible and the purchaser acquires the property through foreclosure sale, 75 percent of those properties shall be—

“(i) sold at the current fair market value to an owner occupant;

“(ii) sold or donated to a non-profit or local government entity that will commit to 1 of the outcomes described in clause (i) or (iii);

“(iii) for not less than the 10-year period beginning on the date on which any entity initially leases the property, and with respect to any new lease beginning within such 10-year period, leased to a tenant with income that is not more than 100 percent of the area median income at the time the tenant initially leases the property, with monthly rents that are not more than 30 percent of the monthly household income, provided that the property owner accepts as rental payment any legal source of income, including—

“(I) a housing voucher under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) and any form of Federal, State, or local housing assistance provided to a person or family or provided to a housing owner on behalf of a person or family, including—

“(aa) rental vouchers;

“(bb) rental assistance;

“(cc) rental subsidies from nongovernmental organizations; and

“(dd) homeownership subsidies;

“(II) income received as a monthly benefit under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.), as a supplemental security income benefit under title XVI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.), or as a benefit under the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 (45 U.S.C. 231 et seq.), including any such benefit to which the individual is entitled for which payment is made to a representative payee;

“(III) income received by court order, including spousal support and child support;

“(IV) any payment from a trust, guardian, conservator, cosigner, or relative; and

“(V) any other lawful source of income or funds, including savings accounts and investments; or

“(iv) for any property that is not habitable, demolished or donated to a land bank with a cash donation to cover demolition costs.

“(b) **DIRECT LOAN SALES.**—The Secretary may permit direct loan sales of single family non-performing residential loans insured under this title only if—

“(1) the loans are sold to municipalities, land banks, or nonprofit organizations that work in affordable housing, housing counseling, or neighborhood stabilization;

“(2) the purchaser complies with the requirements under paragraph (5) of subsection (a); and

“(3) the pricing reasonably reflects the costs of complying with the requirements under paragraphs (3) through (5) of subsection (a).

“(c) **FORBEARANCE.**—The Secretary may not sell—

“(1) a single family non-performing residential loan insured under this Title while the loan is in a forbearance plan.

“(2) a single family non-performing residential loan insured under this title that is not more than 90 days from the end of a forbearance plan.

“(d) **DATA AND REPORTING.**—

“(1) **PURCHASER REPORTING.**—During the 4-year period following any single family sale of non-performing residential single family mortgage loans under subsection (a) or (b), the Secretary shall require each purchaser of such a loan, including any subsequent purchaser of the loan, to provide to the Secretary quarterly loan-level data regarding the treatment and outcome of the loan, including—

“(A) loan characteristics, including loan type, remaining loan term, loan to value ratio, number of months in arrears, loss mitigation status, and foreclosure status at time of sale;

“(B) loss mitigation data, including whether loss mitigation was provided by the purchaser, debt-to-income ratio and percent payment reduction for any modified loans, foreclosures begun or completed, and performance of modified loans;

“(C) demographic data for the borrower and any co-borrower, including race, national origin, sex, ZIP Code, and census tract, and, if available, disability status and veteran status; and

“(D) other purchaser actions, including charge offs and resales of loans and dates for such actions.

“(2) **SEMIANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—The Secretary shall submit to Congress, and make publicly available at no cost to the public in a format that is readily accessible on the website of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, semi-annual reports to Congress on—

“(A) loans sold in a single family sale under subsection (a), disaggregated by pool, including—

“(i) the number of loans and types of loans;

“(ii) mean and median delinquency and loan to value ratios at the time of the sale;

“(iii) the number and percentage of owner-occupied properties;

“(iv) the number and percentage of loans modified prior to the sale;

“(v) the number and percentage of loans in foreclosure proceedings at the time of the sale; and

“(vi) demographic and geographic data, including property locations by census tract or larger geographic location if necessary to protect personally identifiable information;

“(B) the performance of loans after a single family sale under subsection (a), disaggregated by loan pool, including the initial purchaser, current owner, current servicer, data summarizing any alternatives to foreclosure offered and enacted, and data summarizing the data collected under paragraph (1);

“(C) the results of a fair lending analysis conducted based on the data in paragraph (1) to identify any discriminatory impacts or outcomes associated with the sales; and

“(D) claims paid through the Claims Without Conveyance of Title program under section 204(a)(1)(C), including the number of third party sales by ZIP Code, whether purchasers are owner-occupants, nonprofit organizations, government entities, or investors, and the source of funds or financing used by purchasers.

“(e) **PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE.**—The Secretary may—

“(1) forcibly retain loans or properties, without providing compensation, from purchasers that do not meet the requirements under subsection (a)(5); and

“(2) enact additional penalties for purchasers described in paragraph (1) that the Secretary determines have repeatedly not complied with the requirements under subsection (a)(5), including monetary penalties and prohibition from participating in single family sales under this section.

“(f) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary shall issue regulations related to single family sales in accordance with the requirements in this section.

“SEC. 260. CLAIMS WITHOUT CONVEYANCE OF TITLE FIRST LOOK PROGRAM.

“(a) **CLAIMS WITHOUT CONVEYANCE OF TITLE FIRST LOOK PROGRAM.**—With respect to a third party sale of properties foreclosed upon and put up for sale in accordance with section 204(a)(1)(C), the Secretary shall maintain an exclusive right for eligible buyers to purchase these properties at a price at or below the fair market value of the property (with appropriate adjustments) for a specified period of time at the start of post-foreclosure sale efforts.

“(b) **ELIGIBLE BUYERS.**—The right to purchase a property under subsection (a) shall be offered to—

“(1) homebuyers who will occupy the property as a principal residence;

“(2) nonprofit organizations that—

“(A) commit in advance to rehabilitate the property and dispose of the property for an allowable use and within a time period to be designated by the Secretary by regulation;

“(B) are pre-approved for participation by the Secretary or a designee thereof to ensure that the organization—

“(i) maintains active tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code;

“(ii) has a primary mission related to—

“(I) affordable housing; or

“(II) community revitalization through housing-related activities; and

“(iii) has demonstrated not less than 2 years of direct experience with real estate project development as an organizational entity; and

“(3) Federal, State, local, or Tribal government agencies or instrumentalities that meet the requirements of subparagraph (A) and clauses (ii) and (iii) of subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2).

“(c) **ALLOWABLE USES.**—An allowable use described in this subsection shall include—

“(1) renovation and sale, or, if the property already meets the minimum property standards set by the Assistant Secretary for Housing and Federal Housing Commissioner, sale without renovation, to an owner-occupant with an income that is not more than 120 percent of the area median income;

“(2) renovation and creation of affordable homeownership or, if the property already meets the minimum property standards set by the Assistant Secretary for Housing and Federal Housing Commissioner, creation of affordable homeownership without renovation, by a community land trust or shared equity homeownership program;

“(3) renovation and rental to tenants with an income that is not more than 100 percent of the area median income at the time the tenant initially leases the property, with monthly rents that are not more than 30 percent of the monthly household income, for not less than the 10-year period beginning on the date on which any entity initially leases the property, and with respect to any new lease beginning within such 10-year period, provided that the property owner accepts as rental payment any legal source of income, including—

“(A) a housing voucher under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) and any form of Federal, State, or local housing assistance provided to a person or family or provided to a housing owner on behalf of a person or family, including—

“(i) rental vouchers;

“(ii) rental assistance;

“(iii) rental subsidies from nongovernmental organizations; and

“(iv) homeownership subsidies;

“(B) income received as a monthly benefit under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.), as a supplemental security income benefit under title XVI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.), or as a benefit under the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 (45 U.S.C. 231 et seq.), including any such benefit to which the individual is entitled for which payment is made to a representative payee;

“(C) income received by court order, including spousal support and child support;

“(D) any payment from a trust, guardian, conservator, cosigner, or relative; and

“(E) any other lawful source of income or funds, including savings accounts and investments; and

“(4) demolition, but only if the property is vacant or uninhabitable and if the demolition is part of a strategy that incorporates rehabilitation, new construction, or designation of the land for use as a public amenity.

“(d) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each purchaser of a property under this section, other than an owner-occupant, shall, on an annual basis until the purchaser completes the allowable use of the property under subsection (c), report to the Secretary—

“(A) the start date and completion date of any rehabilitation;

“(B) the scope of work for and the total cost of any rehabilitation;

“(C) the end-use of the property, including sale to owner-occupant, use in a land trust or other shared equity program, or affordable rental;

“(D) the demographics of the end-user of the property, whether an owner-occupant or a tenant, including race, national origin, sex, ZIP Code, and census tract, and, if available, disability status and veteran status; and

“(E) the approximate income of the end-user of the property expressed as a percentage of the area median income.

“(2) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall, on an annual basis, make the information collected under paragraph (1) publicly available at no cost to the public in a readily accessible format on the website of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

“(e) USE OF THIRD PARTY VENDORS.—The Secretary may contract with a third-party vendor to assist in carrying out the provisions of this section, including to—

“(1) pre-approve nonprofit organizations for participation in the Claims Without Conveyance of Title First Look program;

“(2) monitor compliance with allowable uses and time periods designated by the Secretary by regulation; and

“(3) facilitate reporting to the Secretary.

“(f) ACCESS.—The Secretary shall ensure that any eligible buyer seeking to purchase a property under this section can easily access and inspect the property prior to making a commitment to purchase the property.”.

(2) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall promulgate regulations to carry out the amendments made by this subsection.

(b) SALE OF FANNIE MAE AND FREDDIE MAC NON-PERFORMING LOANS.—The Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 1328 (12 U.S.C. 4548) the following:

“SEC. 1329. SALE OF NON-PERFORMING LOANS.

“(a) BULK AUCTION OR GROUP SALES.—An enterprise may not conduct bulk auctions or other group sales of single family non-performing residential loans unless the following requirements are met:

“(1) The enterprise establishes a system that provides priority to Federal, State, local, or Tribal governments or nonprofit organizations that have the capacity and experience required for buying, servicing, and resolving single family mortgage loans in a manner that promotes affordable housing, fair housing, affordable homeownership, provision of housing counseling, or neighborhood stabilization.

“(2) Applicable loss mitigation is exhausted before a loan may be placed into the bulk auction or group sale.

“(3) Clear, written notice is sent by the enterprise or servicer through certified and first-class mail to the borrower and all owners of record, with a copy sent to the enterprise if sent by the servicer, not less than 90 days before the inclusion of the loan in any proposed sale—

“(A) stating that the loan will be included in a bulk auction or group sale of non-performing loans; and

“(B) describing the bulk auction or group sale process, including—

“(i) the loss mitigation or other protections available to the borrower and other owners of record both before and after the auction or sale;

“(ii) the status of any loss mitigation actions offered by the mortgagee with respect to the loan, including decisions on all loss mitigation reviews, descriptions of any loss mitigation options offered or denied, and supporting documentation for the most recent evaluation; and

“(iii) the obligations of the servicer of the loan before and after the auction or sale, including loss mitigation requirements.

“(4) The enterprise requires in the terms of the bulk auction or group sale that purchasers take loans subject to the following requirements:

“(A) The purchaser is required to provide loss mitigation options to all eligible borrowers that offer terms and protections at least as favorable as those available under loss mitigation guidelines of the enterprise, including the absence of fees for loss mitigation and loan modifications that reduce payments to an affordable level.

“(B) The purchaser is required to offer a deferral program that offers terms and protections at least as favorable as those available under loss mitigation guidelines of the enterprise, including the absence of fees, to borrowers who can afford their pre-hardship mortgage payment.

“(C) The purchaser is required to provide written, public disclosure of post-sale loss mitigation options that the purchaser makes available to eligible borrowers.

“(D) Failure by the purchaser to follow the established loss mitigation guidelines shall serve as a defense to a judicial foreclosure and a basis to enjoin or otherwise stay a non-judicial foreclosure.

“(E) Data reporting as provided under subsection (c)(1).

“(F) If a property becomes vacant, the purchaser shall not release the lien until the property is sold or donated.

“(G) Use of contract for deed, lease to own, or a land installment contract to sell or otherwise transfer any property that is secured by a purchased loan shall be prohibited unless the tenant or purchaser is a nonprofit organization.

“(H) For all non-performing loans where a home-retention loss mitigation option is not possible and the purchaser acquires the property through foreclosure sale, 75 percent of those properties shall be—

“(i) sold at the current fair market value to an owner-occupant;

“(ii) sold or donated to a nonprofit or local government entity that will commit to 1 of the outcomes described in clause (i) or (iii);

“(iii) for not less than the 10-year period beginning on the date on which any entity initially leases the property, and with respect to any new lease beginning within such 10-year period, leased to a tenant with an income that is not more than 100 percent of the area median income at the time the tenant initially leases the property, with monthly rents that are not more than 30 percent of the monthly household income, provided that the property owner accepts as rental payment any legal source of income, including—

“(I) a housing voucher under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) and any form of Federal, State, or local housing assistance provided to a person or family or provided to a housing owner on behalf of a person or family, including—

“(aa) rental vouchers;

“(bb) rental assistance;

“(cc) rental subsidies from nongovernmental organizations; and

“(dd) homeownership subsidies;

“(II) income received as a monthly benefit under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.), as a supplemental security income benefit under title XVI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.), or as a benefit under the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 (45 U.S.C. 231 et seq.), including any such benefit to which the individual is entitled for which payment is made to a representative payee;

“(III) income received by court order, including spousal support and child support;

“(IV) any payment from a trust, guardian, conservator, cosigner, or relative; and

“(V) any other lawful source of income or funds, including savings accounts and investments; or

“(iv) for any property that is not habitable, demolished or donated to a land bank with a cash donation to cover demolition costs.

“(5) The enterprise maintains vacant and abandoned property until such time as title is transferred to a nonprofit organization or the property is sold to a bona fide third-party purchaser.

“(b) FORBEARANCE.—An enterprise may not sell—

“(1) a single family non-performing residential loan while the loan is in a forbearance plan;

“(2) a single family non-performing residential loan that is not more than 90 days removed from the end of a forbearance plan.

“(c) DATA AND REPORTING.—

“(1) PURCHASER REPORTING.—During the 4-year period following any auction or sale of single family non-performing residential loans under subsection (a), the Director shall require the enterprise to collect from each purchaser of such loans, including any subsequent purchaser of a loan, quarterly loan-level data regarding the treatment and outcome of the loan, including—

“(A) loan characteristics, including loan type, remaining loan term, loan to value ratio, number of months in arrears, loss mitigation status, and foreclosure status at time of sale;

“(B) loss mitigation data, including whether loss mitigation was provided by the purchaser, debt-to-income ratio and percent payment reduction for any modified loans, foreclosures begun or completed, and performance of modified loans;

“(C) demographic data for each borrower and any co-borrower, including race, national origin, sex, ZIP Code, and census tract, and, if available, disability status and veteran status; and

“(D) other purchaser actions, including charge offs and resales of loans and dates for such actions.

“(2) SEMIANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Director shall submit to Congress, and make publicly available at no cost to the public in a readily accessible format on the website of the Agency, semi-annual reports on—

“(A) loans sold in an auction or sale under subsection (a) by each enterprise, disaggregated by pool, including—

“(i) the number of loans and types of loans;

“(ii) mean and median delinquency and loan to value ratios at the time of the sale;

“(iii) the number and percentage of owner-occupied properties;

“(iv) the number and percentage of loans modified prior to auction or sale;

“(v) the number and percentage of loans in foreclosure proceedings at the time of auction or sale; and

“(vi) demographic and geographic data, including property locations by census tract or larger geographic location if necessary to protect personally identifiable information;

“(B) the performance of loans after an auction or sale under subsection (a), disaggregated by loan pool, including the initial purchaser, current owner, current servicer, data summarizing any alternatives to foreclosure offered and enacted, and data summarizing the data collected under subparagraph (A); and

“(C) the results of a fair lending analysis conducted based on the data in subparagraphs (A) and (B) to identify any discriminatory impacts or outcomes associated with the auctions or sales.

“(d) PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE.—The enterprises may—

“(1) forcibly retain loans or properties, without providing compensation, from purchasers that do not meet the requirements under subsection (a)(4); and

“(2) enact additional penalties for purchasers described in paragraph (1) that the Director determines have repeatedly not complied with the requirements under subsection (a)(5), including monetary penalties and prohibition from participating in sales under this section.

“(e) REGULATIONS.—The Director shall issue regulations defining the terms of permissible auctions or sales in accordance with the requirements in this section.

“SEC. 1330. SALE OF RE-PERFORMING LOANS.

“(a) BULK AUCTION OR GROUP SALES.—An enterprise may not conduct bulk auctions or other group sales of single family re-performing residential loans unless the following requirements are met:

“(1) The enterprise establishes a system that provides priority to Federal, State, local, or Tribal governments or nonprofit organizations that have the capacity and experience required for buying, servicing, and resolving single family mortgage loans in a manner that promotes affordable housing, fair housing, affordable homeownership, provision of housing counseling, or neighborhood stabilization.

“(2) Clear, written notice is sent by the enterprise or servicer through certified and first-class mail to the borrower and all owners of record, with a copy sent to the enterprise if sent by the servicer, not less than 90 days before the inclusion of the loan in any proposed sale—

“(A) stating that the loan will be included in a bulk auction or group sale of re-performing loans; and

“(B) describing the bulk auction or group sale process, including—

“(i) the loss mitigation or other protections available to the borrower and other owners of record both before and after the auction or sale; and

“(ii) the obligations of the servicer of the loan before and after the auction or sale, including loss mitigation requirements.

“(3) The enterprise requires in the terms of the bulk auction or group sale that purchasers take loans subject to the following requirements:

“(A) The purchaser is required to offer targeted payment relief options to borrowers that become more than 60 days delinquent on their mortgage after their loan is sold that includes deferral of principal and term extension options that reduce payments to an affordable level.

“(B) The purchaser is required to offer a deferral program to borrowers that become more than 60 days delinquent on their mortgage after their loan is sold that offers terms and protections at least as favorable as those available under loss mitigation guidelines of the enterprise, including the absence of fees, to borrowers who can afford their pre-hardship mortgage payment.

“(C) Failure by the purchaser to follow the established loss mitigation guidelines shall serve as a defense to a judicial foreclosure and a basis to enjoin or otherwise stay a non-judicial foreclosure.

“(D) Data reporting as provided under subsection (b)(1).

“(E) If a property becomes vacant, the purchaser shall not release the lien until the property is sold or donated.

“(F) Use of contract for deed, lease to own, or a land installment contract to sell or otherwise transfer any property that is secured by a purchased loan shall be prohibited unless the tenant or purchaser is a nonprofit organization.

“(b) DATA AND REPORTING.—

“(1) PURCHASER REPORTING.—During the 4-year period following any auction or sale of single family re-performing residential mortgage loans under subsection (a), the Director shall require the enterprise to collect from each purchaser of such loans, including any subsequent purchaser of a loan, quarterly loan-level data regarding the treatment and outcome of the loan, including—

“(A) loan characteristics, including loan type, remaining loan term, loan to value ratio, number of months in arrears, and loan status;

“(B) loss mitigation data, including whether loss mitigation was provided by the purchaser, debt-to-income ratio and percent payment reduction for any modified loans, and performance of modified loans;

“(C) demographic data for each borrower and any co-borrower, including race, national origin, sex, ZIP Code, and census

tract, and, if available, disability status and veteran status; and

“(D) other purchaser actions, including charge offs and resales of loans and dates for such actions.

“(2) SEMIANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Director shall submit to Congress, and make publicly available at no cost to the public in a readily accessible format on the website of the Agency, semi-annual reports on—

“(A) loans sold in an auction or sale under subsection (a) by each enterprise, disaggregated by pool, including—

“(i) the number of loans and types of loans;

“(ii) mean and median delinquency and loan to value ratios at the time of the sale;

“(iii) the number and percentage of loans modified prior to auction or sale; and

“(iv) demographic and geographic data, including property locations by census tract or larger geographic location if necessary to protect personally identifiable information.

“(B) the performance of loans after an auction or sale under subsection (a), disaggregated by loan pool, including the initial purchaser, current owner, current servicer, data summarizing any alternatives to foreclosure offered and enacted, and data summarizing the data collected under subparagraph (A); and

“(C) the results of a fair lending analysis conducted based on the data in subparagraphs (A) and (B) to identify any discriminatory impacts or outcomes associated with the auctions or sales.

“(c) PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE.—The enterprises may forcibly retain loans or properties, without providing compensation, from purchasers that do not meet the requirements under subsection (a)(3).

“(d) REGULATIONS.—The Director shall issue regulations defining the terms of permissible auctions or sales in accordance with the requirements in this section.”.

SA 4365. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ BANKRUPTCY TREATMENT OF PRIMARY RESIDENCES THAT ARE NOT REAL PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1322 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “real property” and inserting “property”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “real property” and inserting “property”.

(b) REORGANIZATION.—Section 1123(b)(5) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking “real property” and inserting “property”.

(c) LIQUIDATION.—Section 722 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following: “This section shall not apply to tangible personal property that is the debtor’s principal residence.”.

SA 4366. Mr. SCHMITT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4308 proposed by Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Ms. WARREN) to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 901(a)(2)(J), insert “or is intended and operated to be a facility to provide residential care to individuals with disabilities (as defined in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102)) or developmental disabilities (as defined in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15002)),” after “or older,”.

SA 4367. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE —CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW SKILLS TRAINING AT RURAL OR UNDERSERVED COLLEGES AND TRADE SCHOOLS

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Creating Opportunities for New Skills Training at Rural or Underserved Colleges and Trade Schools Act of 2026” and “CONSTRUCTS Act of 2026”.

SEC. 2. EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR CAREERS IN RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3221 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 172 as section 173; and

(2) by inserting after section 171 the following:

“SEC. 172. EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR CAREERS IN RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) INCUMBENT WORKER.—The term ‘incumbent worker’ has the meaning given the term in section 680.780 of title 20, Code of Federal Regulations, or a successor regulation.

“(2) JUNIOR OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term ‘junior or community college’ has the meaning given the term in section 312 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058).

“(3) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’ means any—

“(A) nonmetropolitan area; or

“(B) rural area, as defined under section 520 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490).

“(4) UNDERSERVED POPULATION.—The term ‘underserved population’ means a group of individuals with a common demographic trait (such as individuals from the same gender, race, or ethnicity), the members of which—

“(A) based on the most recent satisfactory demographic and employment data from the Bureau of the Census, comprise a percentage of individuals employed in the construction sector that is lower than the percentage of the total population of the United States comprised by such members;

“(B) are low-income individuals;

“(C) are individuals with barriers to employment; or

“(D) are veterans.

“(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, shall establish a program, through which the Secretary of Labor shall award, on a competitive basis, grants to eligible entities to expand their capacity to provide training services, education, and outreach activities for careers in the residential construction industry.

“(2) GRANT PERIOD.—A grant awarded under this section shall be for a period of not more than 4 years.

“(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an entity shall be—

“(1) a junior or community college;

“(2) an area career and technical education school; or

“(3) a provider of training services, as described in section 122(a)(2).

“(d) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible entity that desires to receive a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary of Labor at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including the following information:

“(1) A description of the new or expanded training services, education, or outreach activities supported by the grant, including a description of how the new training services, education, or outreach activities will align with existing programming related to careers in the residential construction industry at the eligible entity, and the relevant faculty or technical instructors employed by the eligible entity on the date of the submission of the application or who may be employed by the eligible entity to carry out the training services, education, or outreach activities supported by the grant.

“(2) A description of the populations that will be served through the training services, education, or outreach activities supported by the grant, including whether the participants in such training services, education, or outreach activities are—

“(A) incumbent workers;

“(B) individuals in rural areas;

“(C) in-school youth;

“(D) opportunity youth; or

“(E) part of an underserved population.

“(3) A description of the partnerships the eligible entity will facilitate through the grant, including the process by which the eligible entity will ensure that a partner provides fair wages and benefits that are commensurate with local pay and benefit packages, and a plan for sustaining activities and partnerships supported by the grant after the completion of the grant period.

“(4) A description of the anticipated outcomes of the training services, education, or outreach activities supported by the grant, including, at a minimum, the recognized postsecondary credential, postsecondary credit, or degree to be earned by participants, and a timetable showing how the eligible entity will meet the primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A).

“(5) A description of the intended impact of the training services, education, or outreach activities on the local housing market, including a description of how the new training services, education, or outreach activities will increase the supply of affordable housing.

“(6) Such other information as the Secretary may require.

“(e) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary of Labor shall give priority to eligible entities that serve rural areas or underserved populations.

“(f) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(1) REQUIRED USES.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds—

“(A) to create or expand an evidence-based education or training program to provide skills needed in the residential construction industry, including skills related to—

“(i) carpentry;

“(ii) framing;

“(iii) masonry;

“(iv) welding;

“(v) plumbing;

“(vi) electrical work;

“(vii) construction management;

“(viii) architecture;

“(ix) HVAC;

“(x) land surveying and geomatics;

“(xi) construction mathematics;

“(xii) heavy equipment operation; and

“(xiii) such other trades as identified by the Department of Labor;

“(B) to create or expand an education or training program focused on increasing the skills of incumbent workers who are residential construction workers;

“(C) to create a partnership with a local residential construction business or developer, either alone or in conjunction with a nonprofit organization, labor organization, entity in the State or local workforce development system, sponsor of a pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship program, YouthBuild program, or another community partner, with a focus on engaging with organizations that recruit employees or program participants from underserved populations; and

“(D) to facilitate outreach to secondary school and elementary school students about the residential construction industry and education and training programs available under this section, which may include developing dual or concurrent enrollment programs (as defined under section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)) for secondary students to participate in such education and training programs or integrating such programs in a relevant career and technical education program administered by an elementary school or secondary school.

“(2) PERMISSIVE USES.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section may use the grant funds—

“(A) to hire technical instructors or other faculty with demonstrated experience and expertise in residential construction to lead education or training programs related to skills and recognized postsecondary credentials needed for a career in the residential construction industry;

“(B) to operate an education and training clinic in a rural area or area not otherwise served by an entity described in subsection (c), to the extent necessary and practicable;

“(C) to develop promotion materials for the purpose of increasing awareness of the training services, education, or outreach activities; or

“(D) to provide supportive services through merit-based and needs-based scholarships, to promote retention in, and completion of—

“(i) an education or training program supported under this section; or

“(ii) tests or coursework related to certification.

“(g) ASSISTANCE; FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall—

“(1) use flexible schedules in carrying out the education or training program, including night classes, part-time schedules, and online curricula, to accommodate individuals who work during the day or live in rural areas; and

“(2) provide an individual, upon completion of the education or training program, supportive services for job search and placement to ensure the success of such individuals in achieving the education and career goals.

“(h) COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each recipient of funds under this section, and any entity that enters into a partnership with such recipient for the purpose of this Act, shall attest to the Secretary of Labor that the recipient or entity—

“(A) is in compliance with each Federal, State, and local labor law;

“(B) will remain in compliance with each Federal, State, and local labor law; and

“(C) is not subject to a pending action or case relating to a violation of any law enforced by the Department of Labor, Federal Labor Relations Authority, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or National Labor Relations Board.

“(2) FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LABOR LAW.—In this subsection, the term ‘Federal, State, and local labor law’ means any Federal, State, or local labor law that would be applicable to the recipient or entity described in paragraph (1), as determined by the Secretary of Labor.

“(i) PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall, not later than 18 months after receiving such grant and annually thereafter for the duration of the grant period, submit to the Secretary of Labor a report containing the eligible entity’s outcomes with respect to the primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A).

“(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 6 months after receiving initial reports from each eligible entity receiving a grant under this section, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and Workforce of the House of Representatives a report containing, at a minimum, the information described in paragraph (1) for each such eligible entity.

“(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated \$20,000,000 to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.”

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to section 172; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 171 the following:

“Sec. 172. Education and training for careers in residential construction.

“Sec. 173. Authorization of appropriations.”.

SA 4368. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . HOUSING OVERSIGHT AND MITIGATING EXPLOITATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS PERIOD.—The term “affordable housing crisis period” means the period during which the prohibition under subsection (b)(1)(A) applies in the United States.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(3) SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSING.—The term “single-family housing” means a residence consisting of 1 to 4 dwelling units, but does not include a dwelling unit in a condominium or cooperative housing project.

(4) UNITED STATES.—The term “United States” includes each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and any territory or possession of the United States.

(b) UNCONSCIONABLE PRICING OF RESIDENTIAL RENTAL AND SALE PRICES DURING AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISES.—

(1) UNCONSCIONABLE PRICING.—

(A) PROHIBITION.—If the Secretary publishes in the Federal Register a determination that the United States is experiencing an affordable housing crisis, it shall be un-

lawful, during the affordable housing crisis period, for any person to rent a dwelling unit or sell any single-family housing in the United States at a price that—

(i) is unconscionably excessive; and

(ii) indicates the lessor or seller is exploiting the circumstances related to an affordable housing crisis to increase prices unreasonably.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS DETERMINATION.—For purposes of determining whether the United States is experiencing an affordable housing crisis, the Secretary shall consider—

(i) the interest rates applicable to mortgage loans;

(ii) the effective Federal funds rate;

(iii) the refinancing rates applicable to mortgage loans, including for fixed-fixed loans, fixed-variable loans, and variable-fixed loans;

(iv) the median rental home price in the United States;

(v) the median home sale price in the United States;

(vi) the median household income in the United States; and

(vii) the declaration of a major disaster or emergency under the section 401 or 501, respectively, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170, 5191).

(C) DURATION.—The prohibition described in subparagraph (A)—

(i) may not apply for a period of more than 30 consecutive days, but may be renewed for such consecutive periods, each not to exceed 30 days, as the Secretary determines appropriate; and

(ii) may apply for a period of time not to exceed 1 week before a reasonably foreseeable affordable housing crisis period.

(D) FACTORS CONSIDERED.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In determining whether a person has violated subparagraph (A), there shall be taken into account, among other factors, the aggravating factors described in clause (ii) and the mitigating factor described in clause (iii).

(ii) AGGRAVATING FACTORS.—The aggravating factors described in this clause are the following:

(I) Whether the amount charged by such person grossly exceeds the average price at which the housing unit was offered for rental or sale by such person during—

(aa) the 30-day period before the date on which the determination that the area is experiencing an affordable housing crisis was made under subparagraph (A); or

(bb) another appropriate benchmark period, as determined by the Secretary.

(II) Whether the amount charged by such person grossly exceeds the price at which the same or a similar housing unit was readily obtainable for rental or purchase in the same area from other sellers during the affordable housing crisis period.

(iii) MITIGATING FACTOR.—The mitigating factor described in this clause is whether the quantity of any housing dwelling units such person made available for rental or sale in an area covered by the affordable housing crisis period during the 30-day period following the date on which the affordable housing crisis period was determined increased over the quantity such person made available for rental or sale during the 30-day period before the date on which the affordable housing crisis period was determined, taking into account any usual seasonal demand variation.

(E) ADVANCE NOTICE.—The Secretary shall provide advance notice prior to the publication of the determination under subparagraph (A) for persons to comply with the prohibition described in subparagraph (A).

(2) AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE.—It shall be an affirmative defense in any civil action or ad-

ministrative action to enforce paragraph (1), with respect to the renting out or sale of housing by a person, that the increase in the rental or sale price of such housing reasonably reflects additional costs that were paid, incurred, or reasonably anticipated by such person, or reasonably reflects additional risks taken by such person, to rent or sell such housing unit under the circumstances.

(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This subsection may not be construed to cover a transaction on a futures market.

(4) ENFORCEMENT.—

(A) HUD.—The Secretary shall enforce violations of paragraph (1) of this subsection—

(i) in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as the Federal Trade Commission has under the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) with respect to violations of a rule defining an unfair or deceptive act or practice prescribed under section 18(a)(1)(B) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)); and

(ii) as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this subsection, except that any reference in such terms and provisions to the Commission shall be treated as referring to the Secretary.

(B) ENFORCEMENT AT RETAIL LEVEL BY STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If the chief law enforcement officer of a State, or an official or agency designated by a State, has reason to believe that any person has violated or is violating paragraph (1), the chief law enforcement officer, official, or agency of the State, in addition to any authority it may have to bring an action in State court under its laws, may bring a civil action in any appropriate United States district court or in any other court of competent jurisdiction to—

(I) enjoin further such violation by such person;

(II) enforce compliance with such subsection;

(III) obtain civil penalties; and

(IV) obtain damages, restitution, or other compensation on behalf of residents of the State.

(ii) NOTICE.—The State shall serve written notice to the Secretary of any civil action under clause (i) before initiating such civil action. The notice shall include a copy of the complaint to be filed to initiate such civil action, except that if it is not feasible for the State to provide such prior notice, the State shall provide such notice immediately upon instituting such civil action.

(iii) AUTHORITY TO INTERVENE.—Upon receipt of the notice required by clause (ii), the Secretary may intervene in such civil action and upon intervening—

(I) be heard on all matters arising in such civil action; and

(II) file petitions for appeal of a decision in such civil action.

(iv) CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of bringing any civil action under clause (i), nothing in this subparagraph shall prevent the chief law enforcement officer of a State from exercising the powers conferred on the chief law enforcement officer by the laws of such State to conduct investigations or to administer oaths or affirmations or to compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of documentary and other evidence.

(v) LIMITATION ON STATE ACTION WHILE FEDERAL ACTION IS PENDING.—If the Secretary has instituted a civil action or an administrative action for violation of paragraph (1), a chief law enforcement officer, official, or agency of a State may not bring an action under this subparagraph during the pendency of that action against any defendant named

in the complaint of the Secretary or another agency for any violation of this section alleged in the complaint.

(vi) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—This subparagraph may not be construed to prohibit an authorized State official from proceeding in State court to enforce a civil or criminal statute of such State.

(5) **LOW-INCOME HOUSING ASSISTANCE.**—

(A) **DEPOSIT OF FUNDS.**—Amounts collected in any penalty under paragraph (4)(A) shall be deposited in the Housing Trust Fund established under section 1338 of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4568).

(B) **USE OF FUNDS.**—To the extent provided for in advance in appropriations Acts, the amounts deposited in the Fund shall be used to increase and preserve the supply of rental housing affordable to extremely low- and very low-income families, including homeless families, in accordance with section 1338 of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4568).

(6) **EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.**—

(A) **OTHER AUTHORITY OF FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION.**—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to limit the authority of the Secretary under any other provision of law.

(B) **STATE LAW.**—Nothing in this subsection preempts any State law.

(C) **HUD INVESTIGATION AND REPORT ON HOUSING PRICES.**—

(1) **INVESTIGATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall conduct an investigation to determine if the prices for rental housing units or sale of single-family housing are being manipulated by reducing housing capacity or by any other form of market manipulation or artificially increased by price gouging practices.

(B) **CONSIDERATION.**—In conducting the investigation under subparagraph (A), the Secretary may consider the impact of mergers and acquisitions in the real estate industry, including mergers and acquisitions involving developers, managers, owners, and investors.

(2) **REPORT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a report on the investigation conducted under paragraph (1).

(B) **CONTENTS.**—The report shall include—

(i) a long-term strategy for the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Congress to address manipulation of rental housing markets and markets for sale of single-family housing, and in preparing the strategy the Secretary shall utilize data on race, gender, and socioeconomic status; and

(ii) a description and analysis of how non-occupant investors in single-family housing impact underserved communities.

(3) **EXEMPTION FROM PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT.**—Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, shall not apply to the collection of information under paragraph (1).

(4) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this subsection \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2027.

(d) **HOUSING COST MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT WITHIN HUD.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish within the Department of Housing and Urban Development the Housing Monitoring and Enforcement Unit (in this subsection referred to as the “Unit”).

(2) **DUTIES OF THE UNIT.**—

(A) **PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY.**—The primary responsibility of the Unit shall be to assist the Secretary in protecting the public interest by continuously and comprehensively collecting, monitoring, and analyzing rental

housing market data, data for markets for sale of single-family housing, and data on investor-owned, non-owner occupied housing units, in order to—

(i) support transparent and competitive market practices;

(ii) identify any market manipulation, including by collecting and analyzing data on race, gender, and socioeconomic status, any reporting of false information, any use of market power to disadvantage consumers, or any other unfair method of competition; and

(iii) facilitate enforcement of penalties against persons in violation of relevant statutory prohibitions.

(B) **SPECIFIC DUTIES.**—In order to carry out the responsibility under subparagraph (A), the Unit shall assist the Secretary in carrying out the following duties:

(i) Receiving, compiling, and analyzing relevant buying and selling activity in order to identify and investigate anomalous market trends and suspicious behavior.

(ii) Determining whether excessive concentration or exclusive control of housing-related infrastructure may allow or result in anti-competitive behaviors.

(iii) Obtaining a data-sharing agreement with State and local jurisdictions, housing agencies, and relevant public and private data sources to receive and archive information on housing purchases by institutional investors within a given area.

(e) **INVESTIGATIONS OF EXCESSIVE HOUSING PURCHASES.**—The Secretary shall monitor purchases of single-family housing in each housing market area in the United States, as determined by the Secretary, to determine whether any single purchaser of such housing, including any purchaser that is an institutional investor, is purchasing an excessive amount of such housing made available for sale in any such market area. If the Secretary determines that any single purchaser has purchased more than 5 percent of the single-family housing made available for sale in any market area over a 3-year period, or if, in aggregate, large institutional investors have purchased more than 25 percent of the single-family housing made available for sale in any market area over a 1-year period, the Secretary shall conduct an investigation to determine the purposes of and circumstances involved in such purchases, including price gouging, market manipulation, and unfair investment practices that drive homeowners out of the market.

(f) **IDENTIFICATION OF UNFAIR SCREENING PRACTICES.**—The Secretary, the Federal Trade Commission, and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall jointly—

(1) carry out a program to collect information to identify practices that unfairly prevent applicants and tenants of rental housing from accessing or staying in housing, including the establishment and use of tenant or applicant background checks, the use of algorithms in tenant screenings, the provision of adverse action notices by landlords and property management companies, and the use of information regarding tenant income sources; and

(2) submit a report to the Congress annually describing the information collected under the program carried out pursuant to paragraph (1).

(g) **LIMITATION ON FANNIE MAE AND FREDDIE MAC INVESTMENTS.**—Subpart A of part 2 of subtitle A of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4541 et seq.), as amended by this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“**SEC. 1330A. LIMITATION ON ENTERPRISE INVESTMENTS.**

“The Director shall, by regulations issued after notice and opportunity for interested parties to comment at a public hearing, es-

tablish standards and criteria for the purchase by the enterprises of mortgages on multifamily rental housing as the Director considers necessary to ensure basic renter protections and prevent egregious rent increases for tenants in such housing.”

(h) **REVIEW OF ANTI-COMPETITIVE BEHAVIORS.**—The Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission shall jointly conduct a review to identify any anti-competitive behaviors in the single-family housing and residential rental markets, including anti-competitive information sharing, and not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act shall submit a report to the Congress setting forth the findings of such review.

SA 4369. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . INTERAGENCY COORDINATION TO SUPPORT HOUSING INDUSTRY BUSINESSES.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this Act:

(1) **ADMINISTRATION; ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administration” and “Administrator” mean the Small Business Administration and the Administrator thereof, respectively.

(2) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Small Business and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(3) **DEPARTMENT.**—The term “Department” means the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(4) **HOUSING INDUSTRY SMALL BUSINESS.**—The term “housing industry small business” means a small business concern in the housing industry that contributes to housing supply and affordability, including residential and multifamily homebuilders, developers, general and specialty contractors, property managers and owners, housing startups, and home improvement and repair businesses.

(5) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(6) **SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN; SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER.**—The terms “small business concern” and “small business development center” have the meanings given those terms in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

(b) **INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.**—The Administrator shall coordinate with the Secretary to—

(1) expand access to capital for housing industry small businesses, including rural and businesses;

(2) streamline existing technical assistance, resources, and counseling services provided by the Administration and the Department that benefit housing industry small businesses;

(3) increase awareness and improve access for housing industry small businesses to Administration and Department financial and technical assistance programs; and

(4) reduce barriers to starting and growing a housing industry small business.

(c) **INTERAGENCY PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall work in coordination with the Secretary to develop and submit to the appropriate congressional committees,

and make publicly available on a website of the Administration, an interagency plan that includes—

(A) an examination of current gaps in financial and technical assistance for housing industry small businesses at the Administration and the Department;

(B) reforms to expand access to Administration loans to housing industry small businesses, including expanding eligibility for current loan programs, including the loan programs under subsections (a) and (m) of section 7 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636) and section 502 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 696), or creating new loan products for housing industry small businesses;

(C) new programming or resources to be offered by the Administration or the Department that are specifically tailored to the needs of housing industry small businesses, including opportunities to host joint trainings or workshops;

(D) processes for information sharing and discussion of best practices between the Administration and the Department;

(E) opportunities for coordinated support between resource partners, including small business development centers, women's business centers described in section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656), Veteran Outreach Business Centers described in section 32 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 657b), and chapters of the Service Corps of Retired Executives described in section 8(b)(1)(B) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 637(b)(1)(B)); and

(F) opportunities to support startups developing innovative products related to the housing industry, including by reducing barriers to access the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs under section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638) or creating new innovation initiatives.

(2) **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.**—The Administrator and the Secretary shall work in partnership with State and local governments, housing industry small businesses,

resource partners described in paragraph (1)(E), and community and nonprofit organizations to develop the interagency plan required under paragraph (1).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I have five requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the

Senate on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026, THROUGH MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, March 9; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Rudd nomination; finally, that the cloture motion with respect to the Rudd nomination ripen at 5:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:24 p.m., adjourned until Monday, March 9, 2026, at 3 p.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SENATOR SARITA
SIMMONS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend an outstanding and dedicated public servant and community activist from Mississippi's Delta region, Senator Sarita Simmons.

Senator Simmons was born in Cleveland, Mississippi, and raised in a family deeply committed to public service. She is the daughter of Willie Lee Simmons, former Mississippi State Senator from the 13th District and current Central District Transportation Commissioner. Her mother, Rosie Simmons, served as the Bolivar County Circuit Clerk and made history as the first African American since Reconstruction to hold that position. From an early age, Senator Simmons was instilled with the values of leadership, perseverance, and service to community.

A proud graduate of Cleveland High School, Class of 1995, Senator Simmons went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Educational Psychology from Alcorn State University in 1999. Following graduation, she moved to Georgia, where she worked in education and behavioral health, dedicating herself to supporting vulnerable populations. Prior to returning home, she was engaged in drug rehabilitation and outreach efforts in Atlanta, helping individuals and families rebuild their lives.

In 2004, Senator Simmons returned to Cleveland to manage her family's soul food restaurant, reaffirming her commitment to the community that shaped her. When her father chose not to seek re-election to Mississippi Senate District 13, encompassing parts of Bolivar, Sunflower, and Tallahatchie Counties, she answered the call to public service. She assumed office on January 7, 2020, becoming the first Black woman to represent the district in the Mississippi State Senate.

Upon her return to the Delta, Senator Simmons recognized a troubling trend: too many of her peers had been compelled to leave the region in search of opportunity elsewhere. Motivated by the Delta's ongoing brain drain, she has focused her efforts on recruiting industry, strengthening public education, supporting educators, and expanding access to affordable healthcare. She currently serves as Vice Chair of the Investigate State Offices Committee and on several key committees in the Mississippi Senate.

Beyond her legislative work, Senator Simmons is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the NAACP, the National Council of Negro Women, and the Bolivar County Democratic Executive Committee. Through these affiliations, she continues her lifelong mission of civic engagement and community empowerment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the achievements of Senator

Sarita Simmons and in recognizing her unwavering commitment to public service and her tireless efforts to advance education, economic development, and healthcare access in Mississippi. Her leadership embodies the resilience and promises of the Mississippi Delta, and her work continues to inspire those she serves.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MRS.
KANG YOP PAK WAITERS

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a remarkable woman, Mrs. Kang Yop Pak Waiters, who peacefully transitioned on February 14, 2026, at the blessed age of ninety-one. While titles can describe relationships, they cannot fully capture the love she gave or the family she helped build. Though she was technically my older brother Greg's mother-in-law, in truth she became family to all of us. Not in-law family, but real family.

Our families grew up together in Cut Off, Louisiana. We were friends long before we ever imagined our lives would be intertwined the way they are today. Greg met Carolyn, they fell in love, and just like that, what was once, friendship became something even deeper. One big extended family. And Mrs. Waiters stood right in there with that big smile.

She was the kind of woman whose presence made people feel at home. Her kindness was natural. Her generosity was quiet but constant; and her faith anchored everything she did. Many of us felt special in her presence. Truth be told, I always felt like one of her favorites. I suspect I was not the only one who felt that way. That was simply her gift.

Mrs. Waiters was born on March 11, 1934, in Kyonggido, Korea, to the late Nam Dak Pak and Sun-Yee Kang Cumon. From those humble beginnings grew a life defined by strength, grace, and an unshakable devotion to the people she loved. She carried with her the wisdom of her heritage and the warmth of a spirit that welcomed everyone who crossed her path.

She was united in marriage to her beloved husband, James Anthony Waiters, Jr., who preceded her in death. Together they built a family that reflects the very best of love, perseverance, and commitment.

She was a proud grandmother to Norman Randall, III and his wife Sade; Neal Randall; Jamar Waiters and his wife Brittney; her heavenly angel China Christiaan Carter; Christopher Carter; Jade Hall; India Kilgore and her husband John; Hennessy Brown, Jasmin Waiters; James Waiters, IV; Tejah Waiters; and Spencer Waiters.

She was also blessed with a beautiful legacy of great-grandchildren whose lives carry her spirit forward: Baylan Randall; Liam Ran-

dall; Ramaj Waiters; Cayden Waiters; Carter Waiters; Marley Waiters; Larry Smith, III; Camron Smith, Savannah Ray Carter; Ahsan Muhammad; Kyro Baptiste, Miquel Kilgore; Jakiah Kilgore; Camden Kilgore; Gianna Kilgore; Qwest Pichon; Qace Brown; and Elias Waiters.

Though Mrs. Waiters never measured her life by wealth, she lived richly in the things that truly matter. Her home was filled with laughter, guidance, and unconditional love. Around her table, family gathered to share not only meals but memories. Her kitchen reflected the beautiful blending of cultures that defined her life: kimchi and bulgogi alongside gumbo; oyster dressing; mirliton; and bread pudding. That table was not just where people ate. It was where family was strengthened.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her beloved husband, and her granddaughter, China Christiaan Carter, my very precious niece. Yet the love she poured into her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and extended family ensures that her legacy will live on for generations.

Mrs. Kang Yop Pak Waiters lived a life of quiet strength, deep faith, and extraordinary love. Her story reminds us that family is not only what we are born into, but what we build together through kindness, loyalty, and shared life.

For my family and for so many others, she was a blessing. Her life was a treasure. Her memory will remain in our hearts forever. May she rest in eternal peace.

RECOGNIZING BARON STROOP AS
A "MONTANA INNOVATOR" FOR
THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

HON. TROY DOWNING

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Mr. DOWNING. Mr. Speaker, in honor of America's 250th birthday, I rise to recognize exceptional individuals who embody the spirit of our great state and Nation.

This February, I am proud to highlight Montana's rich mining history and recognize a man who devoted his life to its preservation: Baron Stroop.

Baron worked as a drag line operator at Rosebud Mine in Colstrip, Montana. In a job that demanded grit, skill, and long hours, Baron showed up every day with a relentless work ethic and a great pride in producing the energy that powers our communities.

Last year, we lost Baron far too soon. He represented the backbone of eastern Montana—hardworking, dependable, and humble—and lived his life with the same sense of freedom and strength that defines the Treasure State.

Baron leaves behind three daughters, including Zoey, who serves on my team as a field representative in our Billings office.

His legacy lives on not only through his family but in the example he set. He worked hard,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

loved deeply, and served his community fiercely.

It is my honor to recognize his life and count him among eleven other individuals who represent everything that it means to be a Montanan.

HONORING MRS. LAURA MCKIE
FOR HER ENDLESS SERVICE TO
OUR COMMUNITY

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Mrs. Laura McKie, a proud constituent of Woodbridge, Virginia as she celebrates her 90th birthday on March 21, 2026. For years, Mrs. McKie has been a leader of our community, advocating for education and women's rights.

Mrs. McKie has had a distinguished career, earning a degree in cultural anthropology from Washington University in St. Louis followed by a master's degree from Harvard University. After graduating she went on to serve as Director of Education at the Smithsonian's National Museum of National History. In that role, she was responsible for the Insect Zoo, Discovery Room, Marine Ecosystems Exhibit, and the Naturalist Center including a staff of two dozen museum professionals and 300 docents.

During her tenure, Mrs. McKie was also in charge of creating educational materials and guides for exhibitions, as well as several large-format films, and video productions. She served as the museum's accessibility coordinator, managing the implementation of fully accessible audio tours and ensuring that the museum's resources could be enjoyed by all visitors.

After retiring, Mrs. McKie didn't just stop there; she continued her dedication to public service. Most notably, she volunteered to develop and direct the Lucy Burns Museum at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton, Virginia, which documents the 91-year history of the prison that housed inmates from the District of Columbia. She curated the exhibitions highlighting the 1917 imprisonment, brutal treatment, and hunger strikes of suffragists like Lucy Burns and Alice Paul. Through her leadership, the museum tells the powerful story of the women of the National Women's Party and preserves the legacy of those who demanded the right to vote.

In March 2020, Mrs. McKie received a special proclamation from the Fairfax County Commission for Women honoring her as a "Valiant Woman of the Vote" for her devoted work in bringing the Lucy Burns Museum to life and contributions to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Laura McKie on her remarkable life of service and leadership, and in wishing her a very happy 90th birthday.

HONORING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC
SERVICE OF HARRY FLEISHER
COLLINS, JR.

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and public service of Harry Fleisher Collins, Jr., who passed away on March 1, 2026, at the age of 74.

Mr. Collins is well remembered for his service to the community of Christiansburg, Virginia. He served on the Christiansburg Town Council for four years. His leadership is credited for the development of Christiansburg's Huckleberry Park. Following his passing, the Town of Christiansburg lowered its flags to half-staff to honor Collins' service.

The local Republican Party in Montgomery County believed in Mr. Collins' leadership. Local Republican Party officials, who were impressed by Mr. Collins' strong record in public office and his commitment to electing Republican candidates for local offices, selected Mr. Collins to be Chairman of the Montgomery County Republican Party.

As the survivor of a double-lung transplant, Mr. Collins devoted significant time to the Lung Transplant Foundation. He served as the CEO, worked tirelessly to support the Foundation's initiatives and advocated for those needing help.

Mr. Collins is survived by his loving wife, Sherri; his sister, Valerie Myers and her husband Steve Myers; his daughter, Kristin Sells and her husband Aaron Sells; his sons, Zach Collins and wife Miranda Collins, Brock Collins and wife Becky Collins, and Ryan Collins and wife Brittney Cockram; and his stepsons, Austin Huff and wife Sydney Huff, and Colin Huff. He was a proud grandfather to 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild, all of whom were the light of his life.

I enjoyed working with Mr. Collins and considered him a friend. I join the Christiansburg, Virginia community in mourning the loss of a public servant, community advocate and respected man. Mr. Collins' community work should inspire other local officials in Montgomery County and the greater New River Valley.

HONORING KATHRYN YURKANIN

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor an exceptional public servant and partner to Congress, Kathryn Yurkanin, Principal Deputy Chief, Legislative Liaison, as she retires after 41 years of dedicated service to our Nation.

Kathryn's remarkable career includes 20 years of honorable service in the United States Army. Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, she began as a Transportation Officer and later transitioned to serve as an Acquisition Officer, ultimately retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Near the culmination of her military career, she expanded her service into the policy arena as a Congress-

sional Fellow for Congressman Silvestre Reyes. From there, she went on to hold numerous critical leadership roles, including Congressional Budget Liaison Officer, Acting Director of the Acquisition Policy and Oversight Directorate, and Director of Congressional Affairs for the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, among many other distinguished assignments. Ms. Yurkanin earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Criminal Justice from Mount Saint Mary's University, a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College, and a Master of Business Administration from George Mason University. Her academic achievements reflect the same discipline, commitment, and pursuit of excellence that have defined her professional life.

As Principal Deputy Chief, Legislative Liaison for the Department of the Army, Kathryn has provided steady leadership, thoughtful guidance, and seamless coordination for the daily operations of the Office of the Chief Legislative Liaison. Across changing administrations, shifting priorities, and complex legislative challenges, she has remained principled, dependable, and unwavering in her commitment to service. In every role she has held, she has embodied integrity, professionalism, and an enduring devotion to the mission of the institution she has served.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Kathryn Yurkanin for her selfless dedication, unyielding leadership, and steadfast commitment to our country. As she concludes her 41 years of honorable service, I extend my deepest gratitude to Kathryn for her sacrifices and contributions to the strength and security of our Nation. I wish her all the best as she embarks on the next chapter of her life, and I know that Ms. Yurkanin will continue to be an inspiration.

HONORING ROBIN JULIANO

HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the extraordinary public service of my Policy Director, Robin Juliano, as she completes her latest tour of duty on Capitol Hill.

I know I am joined by both Members and staff, across the House and Senate, in my immense gratitude for this incomparable maestro of the legislative process—who has spent her career mobilizing the powers of this institution to deliver for American families.

I am in awe of Robin's talent and intellect, her generosity and kindness, and her unshakable belief in our capacity to build a more perfect union for our children.

That belief fueled a journey that has taken her to the White House and both chambers of Congress: getting her start with the legendary Barbara Mikulski; waging appropriations fights alongside Tom Harkin, Nita Lowey, and ROSA DELAUNO; and advising the President of the United States on his National Economic Council. Robin's leadership on Team Clark has left a lasting impact and legacy of service.

Robin is so beloved throughout this institution, and we will miss her dearly. On behalf of everyone here in the People's House, I offer my deepest thanks and best wishes to Robin, Ben, Oliver, and Elise.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND CHARCEY
PRIESTER, SR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Reverend Charcey Priester, Sr., who is celebrating the 20th anniversary of service as pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church in Orangeburg, South Carolina. Reverend Priester has provided steadfast leadership to his congregation, guiding the church with vision, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to faith and community.

Since becoming pastor in 2005, Reverend Priester has led St. Paul Baptist Church through a remarkable period of spiritual, physical, and financial growth. Under his leadership, the church's membership has increased tremendously, reflecting the strength of his ministry and the welcoming spirit of the congregation. As the church expanded, Reverend Priester introduced an additional Impact Service to ensure that even more individuals could feel welcome to visit and worship.

Reverend Priester's leadership has also been marked by a bold vision and careful stewardship. In 2007, the church purchased 46 acres of land that would become the site of a new sanctuary for the growing congregation. In April 2010, the members of St. Paul Baptist Church caravanned to their new church home—a beautiful sanctuary capable of seating 700 worshippers and a banquet hall that accommodates 300 guests. This milestone serves as a testament to Reverend Priester's leadership and the faith of the church family.

Throughout his tenure, Reverend Priester has strengthened the congregation by establishing and revitalizing numerous programs. These include a Minister-in-Training program, three-night revival workshop services, the Men's and Women's Ministries, as well as membership in the National Baptist Association.

His ministry has also focused on serving the broader Orangeburg community. St. Paul Baptist Church has implemented a grief reconciliation ministry for widows and widowers, organized a Girl Scout troop and a 9th Grade Character Academy, and reactivated the Health Ministry. Through its Missionary Society, the church provides meals and clothing to those in need, reflecting a deep commitment to compassion and outreach.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in congratulating Reverend Charcey Priester, Sr., on this important milestone. We also recognize the love and support of his wife, Minister Sarah Priester, and their children, Charcey Priester, Jr., and Majesty. May Reverend Priester continue to inspire and uplift his congregation and community for many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I missed three of the votes in the vote series on

March 4, 2026, due to a classified call that occurred during this time period. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 83; YEA on Roll Call No. 82; and YEA on Roll Call No. 81.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SETH MOULTON

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present on January 9, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 12.

REAFFIRMING IRAN REMAINS THE LARGEST STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM

SPEECH OF

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 1099 is nothing more than a naked attempt to justify the war with Iran that the President has already started. I refuse to play their game and will vote NO.

Last week, President Trump took our country into an illegal war with Iran—a war that the American people do not want and the Congress did not authorize.

The President has claimed legal authority to take our country into a war with Iran by pointing to Iran as an imminent threat to the United States. The fact is that Iran does not currently possess ballistic missiles capable of reaching the United States, and they are further from a nuclear weapon than they have been in years. H. Res. 1099's assertion that Iran poses a "direct and persistent threat to the U.S." directly reinforces the President's own rationale for taking the United States into this disastrous war.

This resolution also states that Iran is "harboring" al-Qaeda. I am deeply concerned that this is an attempt to justify the use of the Authorization for Use of Military Force enacted by the Congress after the 9/11 attacks to provide legal backing for the President's Iran War. That law authorized the use of military force against "those nations, organizations, or persons he determines planned, authorized, committed, or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, or harbored such organizations or persons."

While the government of Iran has, in the past, maintained some ties to members of al-Qaeda, the administration has not presented any evidence to substantiate any current presence of the organization in Iran.

If the administration intends to make this claim to justify the ongoing military action, they must provide that evidence to the Congress and make a convincing case before I can vote to endorse the claim.

The Iranian government is no friend of the United States. Their nuclear and ballistic missile programs are deeply concerning.

That is why I have supported sanctions on Iran and the 2015 Iran Nuclear Deal, which

placed real constraints on Iran's nuclear program. President Trump decided to remove all constraints on Iran's nuclear program by withdrawing from that agreement, and laid the groundwork for the illegal war he initiated last week.

The best way to ensure that no more San Antonians in uniform are put in harm's way is to end this war and negotiate an agreement with Iran these concerns rather than pursue a regime change war that will only make us less safe.

If this resolution had included a clear statement that a war with Iran would require explicit congressional authorization—as required by the Constitution—and if the administration had made a clear case to the Congress substantiating the statements in the resolution, I would have considered voting for it.

I oppose the President's decision to join Israel in launching an illegal and disastrous war against Iran. The Republicans are playing partisan games with matters of war and peace, and I refuse to participate, which is why I will be voting NO on H. Res. 1099.

REAFFIRMING IRAN REMAINS THE LARGEST STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM

SPEECH OF

HON. GREG CASAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Mr. CASAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 1099. While I unambiguously condemn the brutal, repressive Iranian regime, I will vote against this resolution because I fear it will be used as a pretext to support Trump's illegal war of choice.

I oppose Trump's illegal war in Iran, which is killing U.S. servicemembers, destabilizing the Middle East, wasting billions of taxpayer dollars, and raising the price of gas, all while Americans are losing their healthcare. I remain clear-eyed about the nature of the Iranian government and condemn its malign activities across the region and its brutal domestic repression, including its recent slaughter of thousands of protesters. However, the appalling behavior of governments abroad cannot give Trump the unilateral power to start forever wars across the globe.

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNI- VERSARY OF WALL TOWNSHIP

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on March 10, 2026, the citizens of Wall, New Jersey will officially recognize the 175th anniversary of the founding of their Township, a historic and vibrant municipality located in the 4th Congressional District of New Jersey.

From its critical contributions in support of the American patriots during the Revolutionary War, to the important technological innovations discovered there during the 20th century, to the expansive selection of primary and specialty medical care providers offered there

today, Wall Township has given its residents much to be proud of and celebrate.

Officially incorporated in March of 1851, Wall Township was named in honor of Garret D. Wall, a notable New Jersey lawyer, judge, and U.S. Senator during the mid-19th century. Senator Wall was also a veteran of the War of 1812, who was stationed at Sandy Hook, and a Quartermaster general for the State of New Jersey. And Senator Wall was the only man appointed to Governor who declined to serve. Naming Wall Township in his honor speaks to Senator Wall's humility, patriotism, integrity, and once-in-a-lifetime service.

But Wall Township's rich and expansive history can be traced back to before its incorporation—as far back to pre-Revolutionary War times. In 1693, East and West New Jersey Governor Andrew Hamilton established Monmouth County, New Jersey, which, at the time, only consisted of three townships: Freehold, Middletown, and Shrewsbury.

Modern-day Wall Township existed within Shrewsbury's historic borders. And during this time, Wall Township established itself as a critical, resourceful, and productive part of Monmouth County and New Jersey as a whole.

In 1776, when the Continental Congress issued urgent calls to the colonies to boost salt production, the colonists of early Wall Township answered. They established numerous emergency saltworks, which were critical for preserving fish, meat, and hides, in addition to making gunpowder—vital to the success of our nascent army.

Among these emergency saltworks was the infamous Union Saltworks on the Manasquan River, which was repeatedly destroyed by the British and reconstructed by the Americans—showing that the residents of Wall were then, as they are now, the “salt of the Earth.” In fact, the repeated rebuilding of Union Saltworks is a testament to the enduring grit that still defines Wall residents to this day. Nearly two centuries later, Wall Township again became a hotspot for making significant contributions to U.S. military operations and national security.

In the early 20th century, Wall Township became the birthplace of the Marconi Belmar Wireless Station, a massive trans-Atlantic radio transmission complex built by inventor Guglielmo Marconi. Prior to the United States' entry into World War II, the U.S. Army acquired the Marconi Station in 1941 and established Camp Evans, a military communications center and cutting-edge radar research facility.

At Camp Evans, military researchers and scientists developed novel broadcasting and defense technologies, many of which are still used today. Namely, Camp Evans boasted the radar technology that was able to detect the Japanese planes within an hour of their bombing of Pearl Harbor. This technology was also used to aid U.S. air power, playing a vital role in securing Allied success during World War II.

Camp Evans is also the home of Project Radar Diana—an unofficial U.S. Army project named after the Roman moon goddess Diana and conducted during the mid-1940s—that contributed to momentous breakthroughs in space exploration. Project Radar Diana laid the foundation for future U.S. space exploration and helped make our first voyage into space possible.

Wall Township's innovative spirit lives on through its nearly 27,000 residents, as the home of a diverse small business and growing eco-tourism sector, numerous parks and open spaces, and highly rated schools. Among the scientists, astronauts, entrepreneurs, musicians, political leaders, and decorated war heroes who have all called Wall Township home are the supportive parents, good neighbors, hard workers, and caring citizens that make up this amazing community.

I am honored to congratulate the entire municipality and join in celebrating this amazing milestone. It has been a momentous past 175 years, and I can only imagine the great heights to which Wall Township will soar over the next 175 years.

HONORING THE INSTALLATION OF
BISHOP JULIUS HARRISON
MCALLISTER, JR.

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr., who, at the Fifty-Second Quadrennial Session of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Columbus, Ohio, was elected and consecrated as the 144th Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and now serves as the Presiding Prelate of the Ninth Episcopal District, which includes the State of Alabama.

A fourth-generation preacher and lifelong churchman, Bishop McAllister answered the call of the ministry in 1992, shortly before his graduation from South Carolina State University, where he received his baccalaureate degree in criminal justice. He later continued his educational journey at Turner Theological Seminary, where he earned his Master of Divinity degree, and Chicago Theological Seminary, where he earned his Doctor in Ministry.

The son of Supervisor Joan McAllister, Bishop McAllister holds a unique place in AME history. He and his father, Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Sr., stand as the only father and son to serve concurrently in active episcopal ministry since the founding of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1787 and its incorporation in 1816, marking a moment of profound generational legacy in the life of the Church. A dedicated servant of God, Bishop McAllister has devoted 32 years to pastoral ministry, 16 of which were spent at Bethel AME Church in Tallahassee, Florida, where he led a ministry of strong spiritual formation, stewardship, and impact. During his 16-year pastorate, Bishop McAllister received 1,300 new members into the church, strengthened Christian stewardship with a strong emphasis on tithing, and guided the congregation in raising two million dollars annually in tithes and offerings. Additionally, he oversaw the construction of 85 single-family homes at a cost of fifteen million dollars, helped more than 1,000 men and women overcome drug and alcohol addiction through the Christ-centered “A Life Recovery Center,” and developed a ten-acre church campsite.

Bishop McAllister also served as pastor of Greater Institutional AME Church in Chicago,

Illinois, where he launched the Come Home for Christmas Ministry, serving over 5,000 homeless men and women and providing more than 2,000 children with a clothing shopping spree at Target or Sears at a cost of \$750,000 to support needy families during the Christmas season. As the President Prelate of the Ninth Episcopal District, Bishop McAllister leads with compassion, integrity, and a deep commitment to shepherding God's people. His pastorate is distinguished by a shepherd's heart; being present with his members, ministering to them through life's joys and sorrows, and building ministries that nurture spiritual growth, Christian stewardship, community outreach, and holistic support for families. On a personal note, as a daughter of Selma, Alabama, and lifelong member of the historic Brown Chapel AME Church, I know that it was within the sacred walls of the Black Church that our foremothers and forefathers organized and strategized for the rights and freedoms we enjoy today. As the President Prelate of the 9th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Bishop McAllister has carried forward that proud legacy in the ongoing pursuit of justice. That is why I am proud to recognize his faithful leadership, ministry, and service as we commemorate the 61st anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr., as the President Prelate of the Ninth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

RECOGNIZING THE INVESTITURE
OF JUDGE WILLIAM MERCER

HON. TROY DOWNING

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Mr. DOWNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Montanans gather for the investiture ceremony of Judge William Mercer, marking an important moment for our state and judicial system.

Since 1994, Bill Mercer has served as the assistant United States attorney for the District of Montana, the acting United States Associate Attorney General, and as a member of the Montana House of Representatives in addition to a stint as a practicing attorney and partner at law firm Holland and Hart in Billings.

Throughout his judicial endeavors, Bill developed a reputation as a respected and principled practitioner of the law. On July 10, 2025, he was nominated to serve as United States district judge of the United States District Court for the District of Montana by President Donald J. Trump—a distinct honor in and of itself.

Bill brings a wealth of experience to the bench, and I have complete confidence that he will uphold the rule of law and serve the people of Montana with integrity, professionalism, and honor. I congratulate Bill and best of luck as he embarks on this new chapter.

CELEBRATING THE INCREDIBLE
LIFE OF DR. NORMAN CHRIS-
TOPHER FRANCIS

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise with immense pride as we honor a remarkable leader and my mentor, the late Dr. Norman C. Francis. His commitment to advancing education through social justice transformed Louisiana and had a profound impact on this entire Nation.

As the longest-serving president of Xavier University, my alma mater, Dr. Francis set the gold standard for HBCUs, fostering excellence in higher education. His leadership during the civil rights movement was instrumental in breaking down barriers and fighting for equality.

In 2006, Dr. Francis was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our Nation's highest civilian honor, in recognition of his deep intellect, compassion, and character. His tireless dedication to uplifting others has left a lasting impact on countless lives, including my own.

Today, I ask for support in granting Dr. Norman C. Francis the distinguished Congressional Gold Medal. This honor would celebrate his lifetime of service and his enduring legacy, ensuring that his works continue to inspire future generations.

I thank Dr. Francis' family for letting him be a part of our lives. I thank Dr. Francis for his extraordinary contributions. His legacy will live forever and continue to light our paths toward a more just society.

HONORING CHELESA CARTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Chelesa Carter of Greenville, Mississippi, for her outstanding leadership and historic service to Washington County.

In 2017, Ms. Carter was appointed County Administrator for Washington County, becoming the first African American woman to hold this distinguished position. In this executive

role, she oversees the daily operations of county government, including administrative management, financial oversight, personnel administration, and the implementation of policies adopted by the Board of Supervisors. Her work ensures that county services are delivered efficiently, responsibly, and in a manner that serves the best interests of the citizens of Washington County.

Ms. Carter's appointment marked a significant milestone in the history of local governance in the Mississippi Delta. Her leadership reflects professionalism, integrity, and a steadfast commitment to public service. By breaking barriers and serving with excellence, she has paved the way for greater representation in government leadership and has set an example for future generations of women and young people aspiring to serve their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chelesa Carter for her historic achievement and her continued dedication to the people of Washington County. Her contributions strengthen local government and embody the very best of public service.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S855–S906

Measures Introduced: Twenty-seven bills and nine resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3998–4024, S.J. Res. 112–118, and S. Res. 627–628. **Pages S881–82**

Measures Reported:

S. 3798, to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish criminal offenses with respect to violations involving ATMs, regardless of whether the ATM is located on the physical premises of a financial institution, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S880**

Measures Passed:

Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act: Senate passed S. 836, to amend the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 to strengthen protections relating to the online collection, use, and disclosure of personal information of children and teens, after agreeing to the committee amendments. **Pages S860–69**

Servicemembers' Credit Monitoring Enhancement Act: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 2074, to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to expand the definition of an active duty military consumer for purposes of certain credit monitoring requirements, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S877–78**

Measures Considered:

Housing for the 21st Century Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of H.R. 6644, to increase the supply of housing in America, taking action on the following amendments and motions proposed thereto: **Pages S855–860, S869–71, S877**

Pending:

Scott (SC)/Warren Amendment No. 4308, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S855**

Thune (for Scott (SC)/Warren) Amendment No. 4307 (to Amendment No. 4308), to require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress studies on workforce housing, housing

for persons who are elderly or disabled, proximity of housing to Superfund sites, and residential heirs property. **Page S855**

Thune Amendment No. 4310 (to Amendment No. 4307), to change the enactment date. **Page S855**

Thune Amendment No. 4311 (to the text proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 4308), to change the enactment date. **Page S855**

Thune Amendment No. 4312 (to Amendment No. 4311), of a perfecting nature. **Page S855**

Thune motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, with instructions, Amendment No. 4313, to change the enactment date. **Page S855**

Thune Amendment No. 4314 (to the instructions of the motion to commit), of a perfecting nature. **Page S855**

Thune Amendment No. 4315 (to Amendment No. 4314), of a perfecting nature. **Page S855**

A motion was entered to close further debate on Scott (SC)/Warren Amendment No. 4308 (listed above), and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Lt. Gen. Joshua M. Rudd to be General for appointment in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 60. **Page S877**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of Scott (SC)/Warren Amendment No. 4308. **Page S877**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the filing deadline with respect to the first-degree amendments to Scott (SC)/Warren Amendment No. 4308, to the bill, and first-degree amendments to the bill, be at 3:30 p.m., on Monday, March 9, 2026. **Page S877**

Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act: By 51 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. 47), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate upon reconsideration rejected the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of

H.R. 7147, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026.

Page S871

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to the motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill on February 12, 2026.

Page S871

Senate agreed to the motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill on February 12, 2026.

Page S871

Rudd Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Lt. Gen. Joshua M. Rudd to be General for appointment in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 60.

Page S877

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, March 5, 2026, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, March 9, 2026.

Page S877

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Page S877

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, March 9, 2026, Senate resume consideration of the nomination; and that the motion to invoke cloture with respect to the nomination ripen at 5:30 p.m.

Page S877

Executive Communications:

Page S880

Executive Reports of Committees:

Pages S880–81

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S882–83

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S883–88

Amendments Submitted:

Pages S888–906

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Page S906

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—47)

Page S871

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 4:24 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2026. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S906.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

SMALL DRONE INDUSTRIAL BASE

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the American small drone industrial base, after receiving testimony from Owen O. West, Senior Advisor for Drone Dominance, Travis Metz, Drone Dominance Program Manager, and Major General Steven M. Marks, USA, Director, Defense Autonomous Warfare Group, all of the Department of Defense.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Arvind Raman, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology, who was introduced by Senator Young, and Matthew Anderson, of Colorado, to be Deputy Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, who was introduced by Senator Sheehy, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Frank Garcia, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, who was introduced by Representative Rick Crawford, Lee Lipton, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines, Asel Roberts, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia, Troy Edgar, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of El Salvador, who was introduced by Senator Hagerty, and Jared Novelly, of Missouri, to be Ambassador to New Zealand, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Independent State of Samoa, the Cook Islands, and Niue, who was introduced by Senator Schmitt, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered question in their own behalf.

TRANSFORMING HEALTH CARE WITH DATA

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine transforming health care with data, focusing on improving patient outcomes through next-generation care, after receiving testimony from Thomas Keane, Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy, and National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy and Office of the National Coordinator for Health

Information Technology, Department of Health and Human Services.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 3798, to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish criminal offenses with respect to violations involving ATMs, regardless of whether the ATM is located on the physical premises of a financial institution, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

The nominations of Robert Cekada, of Florida, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms,

and Explosives, Andrew B. Davis, and Christopher R. Wolfe, both to be a United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas, Anna St. John, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, John Thomas Shepherd, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas, Robert Rotter, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Iowa, Daniel Satterlee, to be United States Marshal for the District of South Dakota, and David St. Pierre, to be United States Marshal for the District of Maine, all of the Department of Justice.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 49 public bills, H.R. 7811–7859; and 4 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 76; and H. Res. 1107–1109, were introduced. **Pages H2469–72**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H2473–74**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Miller (WV) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2423**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:10 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H2430**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:52 p.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m. **Page H2448**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and agree to the following measure. Consideration began Wednesday, March 4th.

Reaffirming Iran remains the largest state sponsor of terrorism: H. Res. 1099, reaffirming Iran remains the largest state sponsor of terrorism, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 372 yeas to 53 nays with two answering “present”, Roll No. 84. **Pages H2448–49**

Directing the President pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution to remove United States Armed Forces from unauthorized hostilities in the Islamic Republic of Iran: The House failed to agree to H. Con. Res. 38, directing the President pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution to remove United States Armed Forces from unauthorized hostilities in the Islamic Republic of Iran, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 212 yeas

to 219 nays, Roll No. 85. Consideration began yesterday, March 4th. **Page H2449**

Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2026: The House H.R. 7744, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 221 yeas to 209 nays, Roll No. 87. **Pages H2432–48, H2449–51**

Rejected the DeLauro motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations by a yeas-and-nays vote of 212 yeas to 217 nays, Roll No. 86. **Pages H2449–50**

H. Res. 1095, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7744) was agreed to yesterday, March 4th.

Agreed by unanimous consent the Clerk was authorized to correct section numbers, punctuation, and cross references, and to make other necessary technical and conforming corrections in the engrossment of H.R. 7744. **Page H2451**

Clerk to Correct Engrossment: Agreed by unanimous consent that the Clerk be directed to make the correction to the engrossment of H.R. 6392 that was placed at the desk. **Page H2451**

Work Period Designation: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designated the period from Thursday, March 5, 2026, through Sunday, March 15, 2026, as a “district work period” under clause 13 of rule 1. **Page H2466**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yeas-and-nays votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2448–49, H2449, H2450, and H2450–51.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee concluded a markup on H.R. 7567, the “Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026”. H.R. 7567 was ordered reported, as amended.

INSPECTORS GENERAL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing And Urban Development, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Inspectors General for the Department of Transportation and the Department of Housing and Urban Development”. Testimony was heard from Mitch Behm, Deputy Inspector General, Department of Transportation; and Brian Harrison, Acting Inspector General, Department of Housing and Urban Development.

MEMBER DAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Member Day”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Luttrell, Gillen, Wasserman Schultz, and Edwards.

MEMBER DAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Member Day”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Titus, Wasserman Schultz, and Radewagen.

U.S. DEFENSE STRATEGY AND POSTURE

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “U.S. Defense Strategy and Posture”. Testimony was heard from Elbridge Colby, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Education and Workforce: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 7720, the “Child Care Payment Integrity and Fraud Accountability Act”; H.R. 7721, the “Combatting Regulatory Abuse, Closing Known Deficiencies, and Overseeing Waste Nationwide Act”; H.R. 7722, the “Child Care Integrity Monitoring Act”; H.R. 7723, the “Safeguarding Taxpayer Dollars in Child Care Act”; H.R. 7724, the “No Waivers for Fraud Act”; H.R. 7725, the

“Stop Child Care Fraud Act”; H.R. 7677, the “Closing the Provider Fraud Gap Act”; and H.R. 7726, the No Funds for Repeat Child Care Violations Act”. H.R. 7720, H.R. 7721, H.R. 7722, H.R. 7723, H.R. 7724, H.R. 7725, H.R. 7677, and H.R. 7726 were ordered reported, as amended.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 7757, the “Kids Internet Digital Safety Act”; H.R. 2657, the “Sammy’s Law”; H.R. 6291, the “Children and Teens’ Online Privacy Protection Act”; H.R. 3149, the “App Store Accountability Act”; H.R. 7258, the “Energy Emergency Leadership Act”; H.R. 7266, the “Rural and Municipal Utility Cybersecurity Act”; H.R. 7257, the “Securing Community Upgrades for a Resilient Grid Act”; H.R. 7272, the “Pipeline Cybersecurity Preparedness Act”; and H.R. 7305, the “Energy Threat Analysis Center Act of 2026”.

FIGHTING FRAUD ON THE FRONT LINES: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions held a hearing entitled “Fighting Fraud on the Front Lines: Challenges and Opportunities for Financial Institutions”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE ROLE OF SELF-REGULATORY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE U.S. MARKETS: EXAMINING FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY AND MUNICIPAL SECURITIES RULEMAKING BOARD

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Capital Markets held a hearing entitled “The Role of Self-Regulatory Organizations in the U.S. Markets: Examining FINRA and the MSRB”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ADVANCING NATIONAL SECURITY THROUGH PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Advancing National Security through Public Diplomacy”. Testimony was heard from Sarah B. Rogers, Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy, Department of State.

MERIT, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND PERFORMANCE AT STATE: EVALUATING PROMOTION AND PLACEMENT

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee held a hearing entitled “Merit, Accountability, and Performance at State: Evaluating Promotion and Placement”. Testimony was heard

from Sarah McKemey, Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Human Resources, Department of State.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 7640, the “Shut Down Sanctuary Policies Act”. H.R. 7640 was ordered reported, as amended.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 5576, the “Enhancing Geothermal Production on Federal Lands Act”; H.R. 5587, the “HEATS Act”; H.R. 41, the “Unrecognized Southeast Alaska Native Communities Recognition and Compensation Act”; H.R. 2252, the “North Dakota Trust Lands Completion Act of 2025”; H.R. 2709, the “Save Our Sequoias Act”; H.R. 2768, the “Benton MacKaye National Scenic Trail Feasibility Study Act of 2025”; H.R. 3553, the “BRUSH Fires Act”; H.R. 4684, the “Star-Spangled Summit Act of 2025”; H.R. 5617, the “Geothermal Gold Book Development Act”; H.R. 5631, the “Geothermal Ombudsman for National Deployment and Optimal Reviews Act”; H.R. 5638, the “Geothermal Royalty Reform Act”; H.R. 5682, to take certain land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Pechanga Band of Indians, and for other purposes; H.R. 3831, the “Florida Safe Seas Act of 2025”; H.R. 301, the “GEO Act”; H.R. 398, the “Geothermal Cost-Recovery Authority Act of 2025”; and H.R. 1077, the “STEAM Act”. H.R. 5576, H.R. 5587, H.R. 41, H.R. 2252, H.R. 2709, H.R. 2768, H.R. 3553, H.R. 4684, H.R. 5617, H.R. 5631, H.R. 5638, and H.R. 5682 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 3831, H.R. 301, H.R. 398, and H.R. 1077 were ordered reported, without amendment.

HIDDEN WOUNDS: EFFECTIVELY SUPPORTING VETERANS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Hidden Wounds: Effectively Supporting Veterans with TBI”. Testimony was heard from Rachel McArdle, Deputy Executive Director, Rehabilitation and Prosthetic Services, Department of Veterans Affairs; Lieutenant Colonel Alan Johnson, PA–C, U.S. Army (Retired); Sergeant Buster A. Miscusi, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired); and a public witness.

RECLAIMING ‘FORGOTTEN’ FRAUDULENT PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT FUNDS FROZEN BY BANKS

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Work and Welfare held a hearing entitled “Reclaiming ‘Forgotten’ Fraudulent Pandemic Unemployment Funds Frozen by Banks”. Testimony was heard from Anthony D’Esposito, Inspector General, Department of Labor; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, budget hearing on the Library of Congress and Government Publishing Office, 9 a.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

3 p.m., Monday, March 9

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Lt. Gen. Joshua M. Rudd to be General for appointment in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 60, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 5:30 p.m.

The filing deadline with respect to the first-degree amendments to Scott (SC)/Warren Amendment No. 4308 to H.R. 6644, Housing for the 21st Century Act, and first-degree amendments to the bill, is at 3:30 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1 p.m., Monday, March 9

House Chamber

Program for Monday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 1 p.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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